JOHN BULL

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No. 137778

For meaning of this No. see Page 528.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

"CAN ENGLISH GIRLS KISS?"

For an interesting article
on this important subject
see THIS WEEK'S

"MRS. BULL"

companion publication to *John Bull.*

TO SPORTING READERS

For Special and Exclusive Pictures
of the

"LINCOLN" AND "NATIONAL"

see THIS WEEK'S

"LOTINGA'S WEEKLY"

A "stable companion" to *John Bull.*

ALL-BRITISH

. . . A British Invention Made by British Workmen for British Men . . .

CLEMAK Safety Razor 5/-

Why Pay a GUINEA ?

The Clemak Safety Razor—at 5s.—is Made as Well and Shaves as Well as any Guinea Safety Razor.

. . . Note how carefully it is made—the perfection of every detail—its beautiful finish. Look at the blade—feel its keen cutting edge. No other blade could shave your beard more easily than that.

. . Now put the **Clemak** side by side with any Safety Razor offered at a Guinea. You will then see for yourself that it is in every way the equal of the other Razor—and costs you 16/- less to buy. Then why pay a guinea ?

. . . The **Clemak** complete 5/- Outfit consists of Triple Silver Plated Frame ; Self-contained Stropping Handle ; and Seven Sheffield Steel Blades—the whole contained in neat case, size 2in. by 3¾ in.

. . . The **Clemak** (Pat.) **Stropping Machine**, including a good leather strop, costs 3/6. No skill required—you simply pull the blade-holder to and fro. It insures correct stropping and lengthens the life of every blade. Saves its cost many times over.

OF ALL STORES, CUTLERS, &c. Or post free from the CLEMAK RAZOR CO., Billiter Street, London.

CLEMAK Safety Razor 5/-

JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Vol. X. No. 252. Saturday, April 1st, 1911. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, at 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.; according to whether they relate to Editorial or Business matters.
All editorial inquiries MUST BE MADE BY LETTER.

TO ADVERTISERS.

All applications for advertising spaces to be made to Messrs. Odhams Ltd., Advertising Dept., 67, Long Acre, London, W.C.

DALY'S THEATRE. Every Evening at 8.15, Mr. GEORGE EDWARDES' New Production of a WALTZ DREAM. New Libretto by BASIL HOOD. Music by OSCAR STRAUS. Matinée Every Saturday at 2.15. Tel. 201 Gerrard.

The John Bull League.

LEEDS BRANCH.

EX-LIEUT. ALLAN SUTOR
WILL DELIVER AN ADDRESS ON
"THE ARMY—FROM WITHIN AND WITHOUT."
AT THE
ALBERT HALL, LEEDS.
TO-NIGHT (THURSDAY), MARCH 30th, at 8 p.m.
Doors open 7. Concert 7.30. Admission Free.

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

OPEN MEETINGS AND CONCERTS
WILL BE HELD AT
YATE STREET LECTURE HALL, ASTON CROSS,
AND
STAR HOTEL, BIRCHFIELD ROAD, HANDSWORTH,
TO-NIGHT (THURSDAY), MARCH 30th, at 8 p.m.
Admission Free.

LEICESTER AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

The President, HORATIO BOTTOMLEY, ESQ., M.P.,
WILL DELIVER AN ADDRESS AT THE
TEMPERANCE HALL, LEICESTER.
TO-MORROW (FRIDAY,) MARCH 31st, at 7.45 p.m.
Chairman.—W. F. McALLISTER HEWLINGS, ESQ.
Doors open 7 p.m. Organ Recital 7 to 7.45 p.m.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

GRAND WHIST DRIVE
LIVERPOOL ASSEMBLY ROOMS, HARDMAN STREET
TO-MORROW (FRIDAY), MARCH 31st, at 8 p.m.
Tickets, price 1s. 6d. (including refreshments) can be obtained at the doors.

SHEFFIELD AND ROTHERHAM BRANCH.

AN OPEN MEETING AND CONCERT
WILL BE HELD AT THE
BURNGREAVE VESTRY HALL,
MONDAY, APRIL 3rd, at 8 p.m.
Mr. C. L. KAY (Secretary, Central Birmingham)
WILL DELIVER AN ADDRESS.
Chairman.—Dr. R. H. WILSON.
Doors open 7.30. Admission Free.

BRISTOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

A PUBLIC MEETING IN
ST. LUKE'S MISSION HALL, BARTON HILL.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5th, at 8 p.m.
Mr. B. G. BROWN (Bristol) will deliver an address.
Doors open 7.30. Admission Free.

PLYMOUTH AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

The President, HORATIO BOTTOMLEY, ESQ., M.P.
WILL ADDRESS A PUBLIC MEETING IN
THE GUILDHALL, PLYMOUTH.
FRIDAY, APRIL 7th, at 8 p.m.
Doors open 7 p.m. Organ Recital 7 to 8 p.m.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

IMMINENT CABINET CHANGES.

Several Cabinet changes are imminent, *but the most important of all will not be made till about June.*

MR. LLOYD GEORGE'S HEALTH.

Sir Rufus Isaacs has been publicly reassuring us that there is nothing really seriously the matter with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and that he "hopes soon to see him back in his place." We did not know it was quite so bad as that.

MR. HALDANE'S "ELEVATION."

Whatever else may be the result, the "elevation" of Mr. Haldane will remove from the Treasury Bench its most loquacious Minister—and will save quite a quarter of an hour at Question time.

MR. BURNS'S SURRENDER.

Mr. Burns has given himself into the hands of his Labour enemies by his refusal to arrange for the feeding of poor school children during the Coronation vacation.

MR. CHURCHILL'S BLUNDER.

It is said by those who know the Home Secretary most intimately, that one of his chief characteristics is his loyalty to his friends. This has been very noticeable in his attitude to Mr. Lloyd George, to whom he has always deferred, and whose prior claim to the assistant leadership of the Party he has always recognised. We do think, however, that he is carrying the sentiment a bit too far in appointing Master Masterman to the Chairmanship of the Committee just appointed to enquire into Reformatory administration. A much better service would have been to have helped him to answer our allegations in connection with the Akbar Report. Surely Mr. Churchill is not going to join the "whitewashers"?

A RUN ON OUR BANK.

We are nearly out of farthings.

P.C. GREAVES.

Up to the time of going to press, P.C. Greaves has not been promoted!

EMPIRE INSURANCE.

Forty-four millions is considered by some thinkers—or people who think they are thinkers—to be too much to spend on Naval defence. But, after all, it is only a matter of about £1 a head of the population, and in our opinion it is worth at least twenty shillings a year per person to know that our national existence is secure, not to speak of the safety of our Imperial and Colonial possessions. Looking at it as an insurance premium, and setting it alongside the value of the British Empire, it will be found to represent a very small percentage. Would Lloyd's accept it?

Fearful Disaster to a Judge.

There were many grounds why the ludicrous verdict of £12,000 in the Benn case should not stand. The conduct of that case by Mr. Justice Ridley was not less a misfortune for Sir John Benn than for Messrs. Griffiths and Bedell, the patentees of the stud tramway system, whose suitability for London Sir John severely criticised in his capacity as a member of the L.C.C. and a public man. From first to last two things were clear; first, that the Judge did not grasp the matters in issue, and secondly, that he was wholly prejudiced to one side of the case. He continually interrupted defendant's counsel, with heat and persistence. In one instance at least he grossly insulted one of the defendant's witnesses. The law of his lordship was ridiculously wrong, as the merest fledgling of the Inns of Court could have told him; and the £12,000 verdict has gone by the board. But consider. If any one of the learned judges of the Court of Appeal—the Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Fletcher Moulton or Lord Justice Buckley—had tried the action, the claim would have been disposed of on the trial, and probably done with; but with Mr. Justice Ridley in the case, the anxiety of a £12,000 verdict is put on Sir John Benn, proceedings in bankruptcy are threatened against him, an execution is put into his house, charging orders are obtained against shares he holds in public companies, and he was even ordered to pay into Court £250 as security for costs before he could prosecute his appeal. Is it right that any citizen should be penalised in this way because the god of chance takes him into the Court of Mr. Justice Ridley?

A Suburb of Hell.

Our attention having been drawn to Flower and Dean Street and Brick Lane, in the East End of London, we paid that locality a visit last Saturday night, and from what we saw there we conclude that it requires the immediate attention of the authorities. These streets contain several common lodging-houses, for both men and women, and also private houses, situated at the very narrow end—the streets being "bottle-necked." You can see quite easily from a window on one side what is going on in the house opposite. The tenants do not possess curtains, and when they light the oil lamp, decency does not suggest that they should draw down a blind. A large number of "unfortunates" frequent the houses, and numbers of disreputable-looking lads and men loaf about—"bullies" living on the earnings of the women. The common lodging-houses are a grave menace to the district. The worst feature is that this infested area abounds with children, for in the wider portion of Flower and Dean Street there are two "model" dwelling blocks, in which reside hundreds of poor, but respectable, families, who are, by reason of their work, bound to the locality. We ask the police in that district, and also the London County Council: Do they seriously think that the children, in such an environment, can be brought up to be decent citizens?

Legal Jargon.

In recent years there has been a considerable improvement in the way of simplifying our legal procedure. But Scotland is still a long way behind England. Here are a few specimens culled by us from the documents in our recent action against Bailie Ferguson. To begin with, we were called the Pursuer and the King's "lovite"; we were asked to forward to our Scotch solicitors a full "Precognition" of our evidence, to enable them to deal with the "Defender's" plea that we had ourselves published a "slander of the Defender as condescended on," and that, therefore, he "should be assoilzied." Like priests, the lawyers know the importance of keeping up the mystery of their profession.

Agricultural Depression, Indeed!

According to the *Newark Herald's* report of the sale of Earl Manvers' estates, "very fair prices were made, and on the whole the prices were well up to those of recent land sales in the district, and for small lots were considerably in advance." The paper then records that 2,747 acres were sold for £350; 218 acres for £170; 442 acres for £105; 1,104 acres for £180, and 137,690 acres for £3,460, whilst what is described as a "small holding" of 2,267 acres fetched £410. One farm, stated to comprise 254,615 acres, was knocked down for £6,400. After citing several other remarkable bargains, the paper goes on to chronicle what it describes as the "humorous" side of the sale. Perhaps this consisted in the expression on the face of the unfortunate owner!

Bibliolatry.

We always enjoy the Bible as a literary effort, but we foresaw that a great deal of twaddle would be written in connection with the solemn presentation of a copy to his Majesty at the tercentenary of the translation. What is there new or instructive to be said about the Bible any more than about Homer or Shakespeare? One point, however, seems to have been overlooked. With the exception perhaps of the Vulgate, the English translation is the only presentation of the Scriptures which combines dignity with eloquent simplicity. Try to read it in French or German, and you will begin to wonder how it ever came to acquire a reputation at all comparable to that of, say, the Talmud or the Koran. As it is, it is a wonderful book.

Football Sharks.

We do not often endorse legislation against betting, but we confess to a sneaking sympathy with the action of the Dutch legislature in its persecution of bookmakers. We do not care a fig or a thistle whether the Dutch are prevented from enjoying themselves in their own way on racecourses or anywhere else. But Middelburg and Flushing have recently become pirates' nests for hordes of welshers, who prey upon unsuspecting British sportsmen. Of course, some of the bookmakers in those places are old-established and perfectly honest, but the vast majority use the local post-office only as an accommodation address, and carry on their business on the bad old principle of heads they win, tails backers lose. Of course, if the Dutch had a Business Government in Holland, they would punish or restrain swindlers, and make money out of honest firms by giving them licences. But Business Governments are not easily found in any country at present—not even in England!

The Roberts Myth.

Despite all Lord Roberts's eccentricities in the evening of his days, certain people still persist in maintaining him upon a pedestal. The latest demonstration in his favour is a proposal to set up his portrait at Eton College, as "the most eminent old Etonian who took part in the South African War." We should be the last to underrate his lordship's services during the early days of his career, but surely history will recognise that his share in the subjugation of the Boers was small and belated. We should like to see a good caricature of Lord Roberts as he really is. Will Sergeant-Major Edmondson oblige?

Appropriate to Apothecaries.

We have been shown a newspaper containing a long list of "drugs at given-away prices," including backache pills, digestive pills, rheumatic pills and other preparations. The delightful jest is that this announcement is immediately followed by an offer of "mourning cards."

Eavesdropping at Telephones.

People who stay in hotels where there is a telephone extension on every floor will do well to beware of inquisitive people downstairs. You ring up somebody and discuss all your most intimate private affairs in the fond belief that you are enjoying the same privacy as belongs to your correspondence. Not a bit of it. As likely as not, there is somebody at the connection, beguiling his leisure moments by satisfying his curiosity at your expense. A friend of ours gives us his experience when trying to communicate with our office the other day. One of our secretaries replied that we were out, but would ring him up if he gave us his telephone number. He replied, "Hold the line a minute, while I find out." Then a guttural voice interposed from the nether regions and immediately gave the required number. No doubt this was very kind and considerate, but it innocently revealed the fact that the wire was being tapped, and filled our unfortunate friend with qualms as to the extent of his unconscious revelations. Of course, the young ladies at the Exchange never indulge their curiosity in the same way—but they *could*.

Modern Defenders of the Faith.

Several non-Catholic persons are rushing into the fray to defend the Pope's *Ne Temere* decree against mixed marriages. They say that the matter only concerns His Holiness's flock, and that the heads of any religious organisation are perfectly entitled to make what rules they please about the conduct of their disciples; in other words, that if Catholics don't like it, they can become Protestants. That is all very well, but what about the non-Catholic who marries a Catholic and is told that, in the eyes of millions of people, his marriage is null and void? Considering the social damage and the widespread stigma, we are not sure that this decree does not amount to a kind of prospective or retrospective libel. At least, Protestants are justified in saying *timeo* about *Ne Temere*.

Bournemouth Bigots.

The hypocrisy of the Sunday Killjoys was opportunely exposed at a recent meeting of the Bournemouth Town Council. The usual insincere argument of the Sabbatarians, viz.—that Sunday amusements and trading would mean that people would have to work seven days a week and would be robbed of their one rest-day—had been trotted out *ad nauseam*, when Councillor Ebben reminded the bigots who now professed such an interest in the comfort of the workers that when he had submitted a motion for a day a week rest for the police, not a single one of them supported him. Such is the consistency of the Bournemouth Bigots!

Artless Aggy.

Since our comments on Miss Weston, the alleged sailors' friend, we have received copious correspondence with reference to that lady. A seaman at Gibraltar writes that there are a number of her followers among his shipmates, and that they are about the poorest samples of men he has ever seen. Instead of proving herself the friend of "Jack," he says that she is no better than a spy. If a man happens to make a slip in one of her eating-houses, it is immediately reported to his ship, so that he may be punished. She talks a great deal about her generous distribution of her silly newspaper, but it turns out that the ships receive copies only about three months after publication. Another "poor Jack" writes from Portsmouth that she is resisting the claim of a stoker for a paltry £5 in respect of clothes which were stolen from a locker in one of her Sailors' Rests. As the claim may perhaps be still *sub judice*, we are not going to risk being fined for contempt of court by any comments on the merits. We will just wait and see.

The Alien Test.

The Rev. Dr. Leask, of Broughty Ferry, has been telling a Dundee audience that he is "always disposed to judge a person's Christianity by his attitude to Foreign Missions." The difference between charity and Christianity, therefore, would appear to be that, while charity begins at home, Christianity starts abroad; and there is much to be said for levying a 50 per cent. duty on it before it gets there.

A Masquerading Beggar.

We have been shown a remarkable circular which was issued at Christmas time by "Mrs." E. B. Mizrachi, who gives "her" address as Austria Post Office, Jerusalem. He (if Mizrachi is a man) writes broadcast: "My state is indescribable, my need is great, my misery is terrible. My poor children and I get a living from the making of flower-cards. But, alas, there is very small demand for such articles in this town, and consequently we are in a very poor state, and even dry bread is often denied us poor. We are naked and foodless. All my furniture has been sold to procure the needful daily bread. Oh, have pity upon us, and aid a poor family; our misery is great indeed. . . . You will help my innocent ones and myself so that *all* least we may have dry bread during the time. And the Lord God Almighty will help you and shower down His blessing upon you for this act of kindness to suffering co-religionist order. The Almighty rewards all who do good deeds." But it would certainly not be a specially good deed to restrict our charities at home in order to satisfy this clamorous, masquerading beggar's inordinate craving for dry bread. Perhaps, however, the *Daily Mail* may be inclined to come to this alien's relief with a few samples of their famous "Standard" baking.

Walk This Way.

The Court of Session at Edinburgh has been devoting its valuable time to a discussion of the vital question whether surgeons or physicians shall walk first at the Coronation procession up there. What would Gulliver have said if he had discovered these islands in the course of his travels and found a number of otherwise sane and sober persons solemnly debating a question of this kind? A business tribunal would have solved the whole problem in one minute, by ordaining that the leeches and the saw-bones should all walk along together, arm-in-arm for choice.

Fraulein's Flesh.

We certainly do read some remarkable things in the *Daily Mail*. Listen to this:—

> Since the German Government pays no attention whatever to the colossal surplus of young German girls, and as the high price of meat is making it increasingly difficult for respectable girls to get married, the girls of our circle have unanimously decided to become British subjects, and to emigrate to Canada.

We may be very dense, but we do not see how the high price of meat is likely to affect German girls, unless they emigrate to the Cameroons or some cannibalistic German colony, where adipose tissue is at a discount. But if their intention is to bant, they may have been well advised to try the starvation cure of Canada.

Ambiguous!

The *Referee* states that dressmakers say "there is a great deal more in the trouser-skirt than meets the eye." Naturally.

Bravo, Parson!

Who says that parsons are silly? Here, for instance, is the Rev. C. Hinscliff, Hon. Sec. of the Church League for Women's Suffrage, telling his people that "if England could get rid of the Party system and have at the head of affairs a good Business Government, they would realise something more of what politics ought to be." With the Church and the Press coming round to our side, we are indeed getting on.

Pruriency on the Prowl.

We notice that the killjoys are again on the warpath against novels which they consider to be indecent. We do not read novels ourselves, decent or indecent, but we like people to amuse themselves in their own way, and, if they find any satisfaction in the pursuit of problems, that is their look-out. No good is done to anybody by hushing up plain, natural facts, and the public mind is always strengthened—never weakened—by being educated to a contemplation of things as they are. If the busybodies who have signed a manifesto and given their address as Church House, Westminster, knew what they were about, they would perceive that any attempt to boycott a book by reason of its impropriety has the invariable effect of stimulating its circulation. We observe that a large proportion of the signatories are schoolmasters, and we respectfully urge them not to talk shop. Our proposition is that people either want "indelicate" books or they do not. If they want them, their minds will not be contaminated when they get them. If they do not want them, such books will will die a natural death.

Sense and Sunday.

Here's a health to the Rev. R. M. Curwen, rector of Elstead, in Surrey. For upwards of three years the rev. gentleman has lent the rectory grounds to the young men and boys of the village for playing cricket and football on Sundays. The result is that of his parishioners, who formerly regarded the alarming innovation askance, "the majority now agree that the healthy enjoyment is better than their hanging about corrupting each other and making themselves a nuisance." We wish there were other parsons with as much sense about Sunday. What price the Rev. Charles Brown, President of the Free Church Council?

The Pauper's Teeth.

The Epping Board of Guardians have granted to a Nazeing pauper 15s. 3d. towards the cost of artificial teeth. Some people object to this as an excess of benevolence. Just as Marie Antoinette, when told that the people had no bread to eat, suggested they should eat cake, a correspondent thinks that paupers who have not any teeth should be trained to use their gums. The humanitarian philanthropist sees another side to the question. He thinks that while the object in this country is to keep the poor alive as long as possible and make them as comfy as possible while they live, teeth are as essential to them as boots. The two schools of thought may fight it out while we take time to think.

Grave Affair at Beeston.

The Rev. M. H. Pitts-Tucker, vicar of Beeston, has missed his vocation; he should have been Chancellor of the Exchequer. He announces in his parish magazine that, as many of his people would like to use the churchyard as a short cut to the railway station, keys of the church gate will be supplied for use on payment of 5s. per annum, the funds being applied towards brightening and keeping the churchyard in order and "other church purposes." Evidently the reverend gentleman thinks that people who prefer to begin the day with a cheerful walk, ought not to grumble at paying a penny a week for it.

"Wanted, Travelling Commission Agents."

Can anybody elucidate the earthly purport of Mr. Edward D. Milton, Secretary of the Universal Unity Church? "Wanted," Mr. Milton advertises in the *Mail*, "travelling commission agents in large towns. Apply, with copy of testimonials, Sec., 19, Marlborough Road, Gillingham, Kent." It is curious that a Universal Church should be located in Gillingham, Kent. It must be difficult for many people to find it. But, for the moment, we waive the geographical, and proceed to the ethical, peculiarity. "Thanks for your letter," Mr. Milton replies to applicants. "This Church is distributing stamps, of which I enclose a dozen. It may be that some poor soul in difficulties would care to sell them at a penny each for book-plates to sympathetic church-people; if so, kindly hand them to him with this letter. The stamps sell best six at a time, and if I receive half the takings I can keep the agent supplied at that rate. I fear you will be disappointed at this letter, but I crave your forgiveness." We should think so. The stamps are violet, and bear an effigy over which is engraved "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the World." The Universal Church had better alter the terms of its advertisement without delay. In its present form, it is too tricky.

The Mormon Skirt.

A Rhodesian reader sends a long letter with reference to the Mormons, from which we quote the following passage:—"The initiates who go through the sink house (Temple) have given them a wedding garment, or endowment robe. It is supposed to be sin-proof. It is a kind of a combination, made of white calico, and worn next to the skin. This garment must never be taken off until a new one is ready to be put on in its place, because if a particle of sin was to get in between the two garments the result would be disastrous." We are afraid that many disasters occur in Utah. A kind of Harem skirt, we presume.

Wasted Energy.

A reader gives us the following quotation from Ian Hay's book, "Right Stuff":—"Consider! A Party is returned to office. With great care and discrimination a Cabinet is chosen. . . . Now observe. How are their energies expended? About 50 per cent. goes in devising means to baffle the assaults of the Opposition, and so retain a precarious hold on Office. . . . Instead of concentrating their efforts upon steering the ship of State, they have to devote half their time and energy in dodging the missiles of their shipmates. What should we think of the sanity of an ordinary ship's company if the man at the wheel had to spend half his time in the rigging because a minority of his messmates wanted to throw him overboard?" Our correspondent thinks this "aptly describes the danger of Party Politics"—so do we.

Free Church and Foreign Missions.

On the closing day of the Free Church Congress at Portsmouth, Dr. Horton asserted that, whilst subjects like temperance or passive resistance would attract large audiences, a discourse on foreign missions would ensure a half-empty hall, and that even those present would be "riddled with scepticism." This tribute to the growing sanity of Nonconformists raised a storm of indignant protest. The dear brethren resented the imputation that minding their own business was of more importance than fitting out missions to inform the heathen that there was a hell for him to go to, and incidentally to requisition his land, and sell him some trinkets.

Haggerston's M.P. in Trouble.

"Can it be true," asks a Haggerston elector, "that our M.P., Mr. Chancellor, voted against the Government on Mr. Bottomley's amendment against the suspension of Mr. Ginnell?" Alas and alack! it is all too true. Even the dullest of members gets a glimpse of intelligence occasionally.

A Hackney Item.

In our issue of February 25th we referred to certain correspondence which had passed between Mr. Carnegie and a member of the Public Libraries Committee of the Hackney Borough Council, and upon the information then available, we severely condemned the action of that member in writing "anonymously" to Mr. Carnegie. We now learn that there is another side to the question, and that Mr. Alderman Billings has without hesitation frankly admitted the authorship of the letters and publicly justified his action. The letters were not anonymous as stated in the Press, but the writer, for public reasons, did not at the time of writing wish to be identified. It is, of course, possible that, in some circumstances, such a course may sometimes be justifiable; but be that as it may, the fact of the author of the letters being Mr. Alderman Billings—one of the most respected men in Hackney, and an ex-Mayor of the Borough—renders any epithet which we applied to the incident altogether inappropriate.

Voting Machines.

We do not often disagree with our good contemporary, *Truth*, but when it mentions that Mr. Haworth, a Manchester member, did not once make a speech or even ask a question, but voted 134 times, and adds, "Parliament wants more Haworths," we venture to differ, as its argument amounts to a deification of the automatic voting machine.

"The Missing Link."

Mrs. Bull has hit upon a most ingenious Competition under this heading. Indirectly, John Bull readers are interested in it, for the "missing link" may be found in our Letter Bag page.

(Reproduced by the special permission of the proprietors of "Punch.")

HORATIO THE "CORNER-MAN."

(Mr. Bottomley spoke of himself as the "Corner-Man" of the Liberal side.)

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

AGE.—Biscuits are not given to general servants "2 to 224," or to veterans of 8 years of age. The ages of the former are often inscrutable, while the latter may be enjoying their second childhood.

PATENT MEDICINES.—We do not give biscuits to patent medicine vendors for the injunction to the public to get "the same pills as Mr. Robinson had."

BRIDEGROOMS.—No more wedding cake for these harmless necessary adjuncts when they go away "in a costume of rose vieux, trimmed with glace, with a hat to match." They evidently foresee who is destined to wear the breeches, and they are lucky to get away at all.

MARRIAGES IN THE DEATHS' COLUMN.—No biscuits for these. They are often the grave of love.

LODGERS.—No biscuits for widows who want young men to share room. Most of them do.

For stating of Mr. J. Wilton, the vice-captain of the Avondale Athletic Club, Walthamstow, that "when ABSENT *his* PRESENCE *is always badly felt,"*

THE FOOTBALL EVENING NEWS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating "There were 10 PARENTS *in the one bed, including six boys, the eldest of whom was* 12 *years of age, three girls, and the mother,"*

THE YORKSHIRE TELEGRAPH AND STAR (Sheffield)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in its description of a dinner at Winchcombe Workhouse, "The master and relieving officer (Mr. H. D. Woodward) SET TO WORK CARVING THE CLERK *(Mr. H. W. Stephen),"*

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD JOURNAL
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in its report of the billiard match, Gray v. Harverson, "Breaks: Gray, 1,054 full, 992 OFF THE RED, *and 256 unfinished,"*

THE DAILY MAIL
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in an account of an enquiry by the Rochdale Guardians into a raid on certain inmates accused of betting, that "The committee decided that the whole of the gamblers should be placed on punishment diet for 48 hours; that OTHER PRIVILEGES *should be withdrawn, and the whole of the money found upon them confiscated,"*

THE DAILY CHRONICLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in a paragraph regarding a local cinematograph entertainment, "'The Merchant of Venice,' in natural colours, is admirably portrayed. The scenes are fully played out, and the advantages afforded by the natural background of VENUS *is obvious to all,"*

THE EVENING EXPRESS (ABERDEEN)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For placing the heading "A Miser's Will" to a paragraph stating that a certain person "died INTESTATE,"

THE DAILY NEWS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing on their play-bills: "Special engagement of YOUNGEST *and most talented child in England,* WEE VESTA HENRY."

THE ALHAMBRA
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating of a certain argument at the hearing of a recent Libel action "That won't PASS *water here,"*

COUNSEL (Mr. Hayes)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

THE PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY.—II.

UNINSURABLE INTERESTS.—INSTANCES OF ILLEGAL INSURANCE.—WIDESPREAD CONCERN AT OUR REVELATIONS.

As was to be anticipated, our article last week has caused something like consternation in the Industrial Assurance world. People who have been in the habit of passing the palatial premises of the Prudential Company in Holborn Bars, and of looking upon that Office as one of the soundest and most respectable institutions in the country, have rubbed their eyes in amazement at our startling revelations. We shall proceed to give specific cases of illegal insurances effected with the Company, and of the connivance of the authorities at dishonourable and cruel practices towards the policy-holders.

Before doing so let us, however, repeat the broad lines of our indictment of the Company, an indictment which has for its object the persuasion of the Government that a Royal Commission to enquire into the scandals indicated is necessary in the public interest. We have undertaken to prove (1) That the treatment of its agents by the Prudential is inequitable in the extreme; (2) That the treatment of its policy-holders in the Industrial section of its business is frequently dishonest; (3) That the way in which the Company deals with certain policies is essentially dishonourable; and (4) That much of the Industrial business secured by the Company is obtained and retained by fraudulent misrepresentation, assisted by forgery.

In considering the relations of the management of the Prudential Assurance Company with their policy-holders in the Industrial branch—and these articles deal only with that branch—it is essential to bear in mind the section of the community for which the Company caters. It is the poorest, the most ignorant, the most helpless portion of the thrifty, and so it happens that imposition may be practised with comparative impunity. At the outset these poor people are persuaded that it is to their advantage to insure. When the time comes for them to cease to pay, and, instead, to receive, they frequently find that they have been dealing with cheats. But the discovery is seldom followed by the exposure of the real culprits. As a rule, the victims have no money to spend in law proceedings, but when by chance a man who has been "done" does go into Court, and makes it clear that he is going to see the thing through, the Company usually comes to terms.

We may say that, notwithstanding Carlyle's famous dictum, it is inconceivable that a business such as we represent the Industrial section of the Prudential Assurance Company to be, should win to itself the support this department receives unless in some direction or other it gives something in the way of a *quid pro quo*. According to its last report, the Prudential Assurance Company is now collecting over £7,400,000 per annum, made up of weekly premiums on 18,000,000 policies. Are the holders of these 18,000,000 policies (not 1,600,000 as erroneously printed in our last issue) all fools, paying out of a scanty wage, week by week, moneys for which they get no return? No. The Prudential paid during the last year £2,805,069 to policy-holders in their Industrial branch, and this distribution, paid almost wholly to the very poor, must have greatly helped them in the hour of distress, and prevented thousands of them from having to resort to pauper funerals, or take the hat round at public houses, besides teaching the rudiments of thrift. Naturally, if there were not some benefits derived by the insured, the continuance of industrial insurance would be impossible. Our allegation is not that a large number of persons who take out Industrial policies with the Prudential Assurance Company do not get any benefits from them, but that, firstly, in no case do they benefit as much as they ought to benefit, and, secondly, in many cases they are done out of the benefits they believe, and are entitled to believe, to be theirs.

Just one word on the first point. Out of every shilling paid in premiums to the Prudential Assurance Company, something like 5d. is absorbed in expenses. The Prudential Assurance Company's income last year from its Industrial department was £7,426,317. Tens of thousands of policy-holders find themselves unable, sometimes after paying in for months, oftener after paying in for years, and not infrequently after paying in for the best part of a lifetime, to continue their payments, and then their policies lapse. A small proportion of the moneys is sometimes saved to the policy-holders by means of free policies, but the vast proportion of the sums received remain with the Company.

Illegal Insurances.

Hitherto we have dealt with transactions which, however one-sided and unfair to the policy-holders, have at least kept within the law. The bargain was a hard one, but there it was to take or reject. It is a very serious thing that millions of men, illiterate and incapable of judging of such things for themselves, should be persuaded by canvassers to insure upon inequitable terms, but it is a much more serious thing that numbers of these poor people are being deliberately swindled, since they are paying moneys upon policies which are not worth the paper upon which they are written.

As our readers know, certain interests are uninsurable. We need not stay to specify them; they are well known. But though you cannot insure certain of your relatives, it has been the practice of the Prudential Assurance Company to accept these uninsurable risks. Although the Head Office do not actually tell the agents that such risks may be taken, we shall show in the cases we are about to cite that they wink at the practice, and profit by it. In a very large number of cases the Company have systematically issued policies which bear no relation to the bargain which the person insuring really made, and this practice, by this and other companies, has lately led to the interference of the Legislature. We give the following illustrations of what we say:—

The Case of Mrs. A——.

Mrs. A——. of——, took out a policy on the life of her stepmother, a policy issued to her in a wrong and illegal form. Assuming that the policy was kept alive until the person in whose name it was taken out was 75, she was then to be given a free policy for the amount assured. In 1908, the stepmother reached that age, and Mrs. A——, as she supposed, became entitled to a free policy for the amount assured, which by then had become £14 4s. But in order to get this policy it was necessary to obtain the signature of the stepmother, in whose name the policy had been wrongly issued, and she refused to sign. This made it impossible for Mrs. A—— to get the free policy. Mrs. A—— had been paying upon a policy for 28 years only to find at the end of this long time that her money might as well have been thrown into the Thames. But this is not the extent of her loss. In 1893, Mrs. A—— was persuaded by the agent of the Company to take out a second policy for a larger insurance, but in the same wrong and illegal

form as the earlier one. Before the second policy could be taken out the original policy had, in accordance with the regulations of the Company, to be endorsed and the Superintendent had to state in his report attached to it that the person insured, that is to say, the stepmother, was paying the premiums herself. Now the Superintendent knew that the person nominally assured was not paying the premiums; he knew that Mrs. A—— was paying them, and that the policy was of no value to her since it covered no insurable risk. Nevertheless, Mrs. A—— paid upon this second and larger policy for fifteen years, that is to say, until 1908, when the first policy matured, and, as she thought, entitled her to a new free policy. The Superintendent had then to inform her that this free policy was refused because the signature of the stepmother could not be got. All told, Mrs. A—— had paid the Prudential £39, and the Head Office must have known quite well that there could be only one reason for the refusal of the signature, namely, that the person so refusing, the nominally insured, was not the person who had paid the premiums. And since the name on both policies was the same, and the signature was the same, they must have known, or had good reason to assume, that the second policy was just as illegal as the first. What, then, was the plain duty of the Head Office in these circumstances? It was to turn up the report of the Superintendent attached to the first policy, and to inquire of him why, if as his report said, the stepmother was paying the premiums, she refused to give the signature that would have obtained for her the free policy. If the Superintendent had persisted in his statement that the stepmother paid the premiums, the matter should have been referred to the Inspector of the district, who would have quickly discovered the truth, namely, that the Superintendent had misled the Head Office, as he had misled Mrs. A——, and that the stepmother knew nothing about the whole transaction. Upon the Head Office being satisfied as to this, the honest course would have been to issue the free policy, for which full consideration had been given, and to return the premiums paid upon the second policy which had not yet matured. Instead of this, the free policy has never been issued, the second policy has lapsed, and the Company has pocketed £39 for which it has given absolutely nothing in return. They rely upon the law to enable them to retain this poor woman's £39, canvassed for and paid by her, paid in violation of the law. In our judgment that is conduct that can only be described as dishonest.

Another Case.

(2) A young man named B—— was called upon by representatives of the Prudential, who asked him to insure his father for £100 at a premium of 2s. 6d. per week. The father refused to sign the proposal form when asked by the son to do so. It was necessary for a person insured for £100 to pass a medical examination: no such examination was passed by B—— senior. The father's name on the proposal form was a forgery. At the end of the year the son became uneasy. He had been told that the interest was an uninsurable one, and he went to a friend who knew something about insurance matters, who told him that he was correctly informed. Thereupon he refused to pay any longer, and he made a demand upon the Head Office for the return of the money he had actually paid in, namely, £6 7s. The Head Office refused to return him a single farthing. They were told of the forgery; they lapsed the policy --but they kept the money. If B—— had not happened to consult his friend, he might have been paying his 2s. 6d. per week to this day, only to find at some future time that, whilst the Company were ready to take his money as long as he could be induced to pay it, they could refuse to pay him when it came to his turn to receive.

A Third Case.

(3) Mrs. C——, senior, was induced by an Assistant Superintendent to take out a policy of insurance on the life of her daughter's child. The interest was an uninsurable one. Mrs. C——, senior, signed the proposal form, on the advice of the Company's representative, as if she were the mother of the child. The policy was duly issued, and she paid 4d. per week upon it for some ten years. Then Mrs. C—— became suspicious as to the validity of the transaction, and she consulted a friend, who told her that it was an uninsurable interest, and that she could recover nothing from the Company. She then saw the Assistant-Superintendent upon it, who said he would report to the Head Office. He did so. Then the Superintendent of the district was sent down to Mrs. C——. He too reported that the facts were as she stated. Then an Inspector was sent down to enquire into the matter, and to meet the two Superintendents, one of whom was supposed to have negotiated the policy, and whose name appeared on the proposal form as witness. The Inspector showed the proposal form signed by Mrs. C—— to the Agent of the Company who was supposed to have signed it, but he denied that he had ever seen this document, and it was afterwards proved to the satisfaction of the Head Office that the signature had been forged. The one course open to the management, once they were satisfied of the facts, was to return to Mrs. C—— the £8 she had paid in. They did nothing of the sort. They haggled, and finally induced her to accept £3 16s., pocketing the balance of £4 4s. *The man who induced Mrs. C—— to sign her name to the false proposal form is now a Superintendent in the employment of the Company.*

In these and in other cases which we are going to lay before the public, we submit there is ample evidence to justify our charge against the Prudential Assurance Company that they connive at the fraudulent practices of their agents in the matter of uninsurable interests, and that when such conduct is proved, they pocket the money and refuse to return it, or more than a portion of it, and that only under great pressure. It happens that now and again a policy-holder insists upon some sort of restitution. Then the Company offer as little as they can, in order to prevent the scandal of exposure. We do not know what other people may call this sort of transaction—we call it knavery.

Decisions in the Courts.

Next week we shall give particulars of several cases which have been before the Law Courts, and in which, in response to specific questions left to the Jury, they have found that business was obtained by the Prudential Company by means of fraudulent misrepresentation, and even of forgery. We shall show that in one case the documents were impounded by the Judge, and that they still remain in the custody of the Court. We shall also show that some of the Agents of the Company concerned in the frauds are still retained in its service. In a subsequent article we shall show the methods adopted by the Company's representatives to deprive policy-holders of the benefits due to them.

INDUSTRIAL ASSURANCE.

When we have completed our investigation into the methods of the Prudential Company, it is our intention to deal generally with the whole subject of Industrial Assurance, with a view to forcing the Government to institute an Enquiry into the present system.

BAD BAIT.

A DOUBTFUL INVESTMENT.

The following advertisement appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* of March 7th :—

> A Reliable Under-Manager required for responsible work of Company. Progressive salary monthly, from £12 10s. Deposit qualification £250. State previous occupation.—W. W. Goulds, 54, New Oxford Street.

One of our readers, who is on the look-out for a post, made application, and was favoured with an interview, but, not being altogether satisfied, he consulted us in the matter.

On enquiry, we find that the "firm" advertising styles itself the General Motor Transport Company, with an address at 161a, Strand. It is not a registered company, and although we have interviewed the person—apparently a foreigner—who described himself as the manager, we have been unable to ascertain either his name, or the name of anyone connected with the "company."

Asked what security it was proposed to offer for the £250 on deposit, the manager stated "a debenture secured on motor machinery." A request for the production of a receipt for the purchase money of this machinery elicited the reply, "I'll give no further information."

In the circumstances, we advise our readers to give the concern a very wide berth.

RED TAPE ON THE RAILWAY.

SOME IRRITATING REGULATIONS.

As an instance of the way in which artisans employed by the L. & S. W. R. Co. are subjected to unnecessary inconvenience and curtailment of the few hours for rest they have at their disposal, the following facts deserve attention :—

> The travelling staff of these artisans, with headquarters at the Wimbledon Depot, is dispersed at various points along the line, from day to day according to requirements, to execute repairs, etc., at the various station premises, some of them residing at a point, say Weybridge, and engaged upon a job further out, say, Woking. Now instead of these men, when their day's work is finished, being allowed to sign off at the station where they have been working, they are required to journey back to the depot at Wimbledon, often by a train stopping at the very place where they reside, solely to sign off; when they are then at liberty to hang about for a train back, arriving home an hour or more later than they would were a little consideration extended to them. Furthermore, they are allowed for this overtime money, in the first place inadequate for the time lost, and, secondly, not desired by the men themselves. In view of these circumstances, one might reasonably, I think, ask why in the name of common-sense these men are not allowed to sign off with the station-master wherever they may be working, that official being easily able to notify the depot?
>
> It might be argued that these men should live nearer the depot, but for obvious reasons many are unable to do so.

POLICE CENSORSHIP IN A BRITISH COLONY.

OUR REFERENCES TO THE CEYLON SCANDAL ANNOY THE AUTHORITIES ELSEWHERE.

We have received a letter from a member of the police force situated at Nairobi, British East Africa. The writer, after making several complaints about the conditions of service in the dependency, says :—

> This week, as other weeks, we have received three papers from the Chief of Police, one of which is John Bull, but there is one thing about it I should like to question, Why should he cut out page 81? Was it because he knew we had more cause to rebel than the police sent to Ceylon?

On referring to page 81 in our issue of January 21st, we find the article mentioned, which directs attention to the grievance of a number of sergeants sent out to Ceylon from the police forces of Edinburgh, Manchester, Newcastle and Leicester. We daresay the Chief Inspector of Police at Nairobi objects to his men reading candid criticisms of the treatment of other policemen in other colonies by their official superiors, but that does not justify his cutting out the page in which this criticism appears, an act equivalent to the blacking-out process which commends itself to the Russian authorities and British kill-joys.

CENSUS ENUMERATORS.

WHY NOT GIVE THE "OUT-O'-WORKS" A JOB?

The following letter appears to us to be worthy of the consideration of the President of the Local Government Board :—

> I should like to bring before your notice a matter which I think wants every publicity, that is, the appointment of enumerators for the forthcoming Census to be taken on the 2nd day of April.
>
> It is a fact that quite 75 per cent. of these appointments are given to those who are already in regular employment, and in the majority of cases to those who are employed by the various Borough Councils, Boards of Guardians and other public bodies, by whom the ratepayers' money is used.
>
> I know one particular Borough Council in which nearly the whole of the staff have been appointed. They are in most cases men who receive from £2 to £5 and upwards per week, including amongst them more than one sanitary inspector. They are also allowed two days' leave, the one to take out the Census papers and the other to collect them, and I daresay that most of the entering up which has to be done will also be done in office hours.
>
> Now the work of an enumerator is so simple that any intelligent man or even youth can do it, and it is well known that there are plenty such on the different unemployed lists, not only capable of doing the work, but of doing it quite as well, if not better, than the clerks employed by the different public bodies who have the appointments.
>
> I know there are plenty of intelligent men in this district who are unemployed, and have been for some time, who would be glad of a job, and who have made enquiries and have been told that the appointments were all made as far back as December and January.
>
> This shows that the ordinary "out-of-work" has not much chance of getting a job, and that it is only those in regular work or those who have some slight independent means who can wait that length of time.

"THE ADMIRALTY AND THEIR WORKMEN."

PRIVATE FIRMS FOLLOWING A BAD LEAD.

We have received the following letter, which points to great injustice :—

> I am only a working man, but I read with great interest your paper about the above. You state in your article that large employers of labour can draw up schemes and so appoint themselves sole arbiters. I don't know if you are aware that this is already done. A Warrington firm, Messrs. Pearson and Knowles, have a scheme, and they appoint a few of the workmen on a committee to judge the cases as they arise. But you will at once see that a great injustice is often done. How can the workmen act fairly? They are compelled to watch, not the interests of the workers, but the employers'. You can never take the case to the County Court, and this committee is the final court of appeal. The workers have not a chance. I ask you to inquire into the matter. Even if a man is killed his widow cannot go to the Court to have it settled, the amount being fixed by the committee. I am sure if you took the matter up there would be hundreds of workers here who would bless you.

A DISGUSTED SALVATIONIST.

This is what an Eastleigh reader, describing himself as a "Disgusted Salvationist," writes us :—

> Captain Boulton, of the Salvation Army here, on Sunday, February 26th, came out in a yellow dress, after the Indian fashion, bare neck and head, no stockings or boots, along the muddy roads; shackled with iron traces round his neck and arms and ankles; bound hand and foot with chains. Call that the Gospel? People only laughed at him and exclaimed in the crowd, "Another for Colney Hatch!"

A HOUSE OF FURNITURE TO BE GIVEN AWAY!

See this Week's "MRS. BULL."

PRIEST AND PARISHIONER.

STORY OF AN AMAZING WILL.—A WORD TO THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE.

In a cellar, within a quarter of a mile of the Stock Exchange, live a woman and her four children, whose ages range from six to thirteen years. The woman is a widow, and is confined to her bed, suffering from an incurable complaint. The cellar is not fit for habitation, and an ejectment order has been obtained.

It will quite naturally be asked, How does this woman manage to live? She has a small income, left to her by her mother. Eleven pounds is paid to her every quarter by the Rev. Father Norris, of Brentwood.

At some considerable pains, we have been able to get a copy of the will left by her mother. We venture to say it is an amazing document, drawn by a crafty hand:—

I appoint the Reverend Thomas Francis Norris, of 22, Finsbury Circus, in the City of London, Executor and Trustee of this my will. I give all my estate, property, and effects of every description to my said Trustee, in trust at his discretion to realise the same or to leave any part thereof in the investment in which it may stand at the time of my death and, subject to the payment of any just debts, funeral and other expenses, to pay *five pounds each to the Priests in charge of the Catholic Churches of St. Mary, Moorfields, and of St. Monica's, Hoxton Square,* for the poor of their respective parishes, and to pay *five pounds to the Very Reverend Michael Kelly, D.D., of St. Monica's, Hoxton Square, aforesaid.* I also authorise and empower my Trustee, if he, in his absolute discretion, thinks well to do so, to *pay a sum of twenty pounds or more if necessary* to defray the expenses of removing, ————my Grand Nephew now at ————Home and sending him out to my son ————, New Zealand. If my Trustee should send him to my son as aforesaid, then I direct my said Trustee at the same time to remit one hundred pounds to my said son. I direct my Trustee to invest my estate and receive the income in trust to pay the following annuities—*one pound per annum for ten years after my decease to Mother Mary Paul, or in the event of her death, then to the Reverend Mother for the time being for the Convent of Mercy, Crispin Street, Spitalfields.* Two pounds to my brother per annum for ten years; also the sum of *ten pounds to my said Trustee for his services as such during the first year after my decease, and to be paid as soon as possible after my decease, and the like sum of five pounds at the end of every subsequent year as long as he acts as Trustee, and the same annuity to be continued to such person as shall act as Trustee in the place of the Rev. Thomas Francis Norris. Also a further sum of five pounds a year for ten years after my decease to the said Reverend Thomas Francis Norris, or to such other Catholic Priests whom he may appoint by Will, also to the said Reverend Thomas Francis Norris the sum of one hundred pounds* as soon as it can be provided out of the surplus income of my estate, and if there should not be any surplus available to pay such one hundred pounds before the end of ten years after my death, then I direct that the said sum or such balance as may be necessary shall be paid out of the capital and subject to the above I direct my said Trustee to pay my daughter———— during her life, for her own separate use, and without power of anticipation by her, *the whole of the balance of the income of my estate.* I consider that she should have at least forty pounds a year, but I give my said *Trustee* absolute discretion as to increasing or reducing the amount he pays her in any year, and I authorise him, if he thinks well, at any time, to make payments to her out of capital. The allowance should be made to her quarterly. I direct my Trustee to pay any balance of principal or interest which may remain in his hands on the death of my daughter equally between her children. I direct that the said *Reverend* Thomas Francis Norris shall be entitled to appoint, by deed or will, a Trustee of this my will in his place, and I also declare that the Trustee shall not be responsible for any loss, and that he shall have the discretion of the absolute owner of the funds in the investment, and may at his discretion invest any part of my Trust estate in any securities which he may approve.—Proved May 25th, 1889.

We suggest this is a case for the Public Trustee.

THE LATEST FEE-SNATCHING DODGES.

A "BENEVOLENT" DENTIST.

The latest move in the dental business is a so-called Benevolent Society. Our attention having been drawn to the following advertisement, which is appearing in an evening paper, we made enquiries:—

> The National Dental Benevolent Association will contribute Half the Cost of dental treatment and artificial teeth to persons unable to pay full fees.—Call or write, 16, Chancery Lane Station Chambers (over Tube). Hours, 10—12; 2—4.

The "Association" is to be found in one small room over the "Tube" station. It has been open only a fortnight, and it ought to close before another fortnight has passed. It is a one-man show, run by a person calling himself Edwards. We could not find him, and although we left an invitation to pay us a visit, he has not seen fit to avail himself of it.

His "benevolence" is worked as follows: A person requiring teeth calls upon him, and is then given a letter to a dentist in the Harrow Road. Of course, the "Benevolent Society" and the dentist work hand-in-hand.

A price is fixed for the teeth, say, £5 to £10. Then the patient makes another journey to the little office over the "Tube," and is given a credit note for half the amount. This he presents to the dentist, together with the difference in cash, for the set of teeth. We have not compared the prices charged by this dentist, but we imagine that they will be at least double that of other firms. At any rate, Edwards is not out giving anything away.

WORKING TOGETHER?

Here is an advertisement from the *Daily Telegraph* of a few days back:—

> Lady required, to assist in West End office. Salary from 10s. to 15s. a week. Previous experience not essential. Aged 16-25. Must write a good hand, have tact, and be of good appearance. Office hours, ten to five. Sats. ten to twelve.—Call or write, Mrs. M. Lemaire, Agent, 39, Great Portland Street, Oxford Circus, W.

One of our readers—a young girl—applied for the post. The usual thing happened. "Your services will not be required for here, but for another firm. Our booking fee is 5s." The girl, thinking she would have a chance of the place, paid her money, and was then given a card to go to Messrs. Glyn, the Paying Guest Agents. They told her they would write. Perhaps they will.

Immediately this case was brought to our notice we called upon the two firms named. Let us deal with Madame Lemaire first. When we entered the office we recognised, seated at a desk, a charming young lady, whom we had met a couple of years ago when she was in the employ of that notorious swindler Bonham Ward, otherwise Bartlett. Madame, of course, could not be found. She had not been there for months, and they did not know when she would be there. The only satisfaction we got was that they had placed our reader on their books, and they would do their best for her. Then we went to Glyn's, another fee-snatching firm. Glyn was not to be found, but we ascertained that the post had not been filled.

Now we are not going to beat about the bush. The whole business is a swindle. Glyn's is only a couple of hundred yards from Lemaire's. Why did not Glyn have applicants apply to him direct? His answer may be that he went to Lemaire's because it was an employment agency. That, however, will not help him in the matter, for, according to Lemaire's own actions, they must have informed him that they had no one suitable on their books. The pity of it all is that on Lemaire's letter paper is printed the words, "Registered by the London County Council." Are we to include the L.C.C. in our indictment?

"THE DIRTY RAG."

We are informed by Mr. F. R. Burgess, Printer and Stationer, of High Street, Brentwood, that the above description of our journal, attributed to him by a correspondent, was never uttered, and that, on the contrary, he has always stocked John Bull and *Mrs. Bull*. We are very pleased to have this disclaimer, and hope it may have the effect of bringing Mr. Burgess many new customers for our papers.

DEAN O'KILLJOY.

By Hartley Parr.

The Very Rev. Dean O'Callaghan, of Oldham (if correctly reported by the *Daily Dispatch*), has recently made an astonishing pronouncement. Had his remarks emanated from Little Bethel, there would be no cause for surprise, but one expects a Dean to be reasonably enlightened. What has aroused the Decanal indignation is the growth of cheap picture shows in the Garden City of Oldham.

Let the good Dean speak for himself —

> The pictures may be good, said the rev. gentleman, but the danger lies in the fact that these shows, being cheap, attract young children, who develop such a craze for this sort of amusement that they will actually pilfer a penny which will admit them to the picture hall.

Instead of studying the beauties of Nature in the Oldham boulevards, these misguided infants prefer the meretricious delights of the picture palace. They "pilfer" pence which might otherwise go to provide flannel weskits for the heathen. Apparently, the kindly cleric produces no evidence that the children *do* pilfer the admission money. There are some parents so lost to decency that they occasionally give their offsprings a copper. I hold no brief for the picture shows. I am open to admit that I have at times seen films of an undesirable nature. But the average entertainment at these places is entirely harmless. The kiddies are at least as well occupied as they would be in running up and down slack-heaps, which seems to be almost the only alternative.

Now let us have some more Dean :—

> Afterwards, when they start work, there is a danger of their cribbing from their wages and visiting places of ill-repute. The audiences at the cinematograph entertainments are largely made up of impressionable young people and I would point out that the pictures are shown in the dark. In such circumstances, ideas are engendered which might be put into practice afterwards. Such a state of things should not be allowed. I think that statement is fair enough.

What a foul suggestion! Frankly, I cannot understand the type of mind which sees evil in things perfectly innocent. I have been to scores of picture shows and I have never noted anything that would give the slightest colour to such a charge. It is abominable. That little children cannot sit together in the dark without . . . Horrible! What would Dean O'Callaghan think if I suggested that the "dim, religious light" of his own Church was the cloak of nameless imaginings? And the Dean thinks his statement "fair enough"!

> The promoters contend that they do this kind of thing for educational purposes, but that is ridiculous. It is simply a big advertisement to attract children, and subsequently their parents. It is the coppers they want.

Marvellous insight! "It's the coppers they want." And here we have been imagining the picture promoters as a race of pure philanthropists, living on air, stealing the films, and exhibiting their pictures for the sheer fun of the thing. Now they are found out. Their vile schemes for providing the Oldham kiddies with two hours' happiness for a penny each, are discovered. To the soupiest bath-room in the Oldham Spike with the varlets!

> As I have said, the pictures themselves may be, and doubtless are, innocent enough and worth seeing, but I think there can be no question that they are creating a craze for pleasure among the very young which cannot fail to have lamentable results in the long run.
>
> In my opinion if the clergy generally would take the matter up and prevent the children of day schools from attending picture shows it would have a good effect. The authorities make it too easy for people to promote such entertainments. Penny picture halls are springing up on every hand, and in some of them there is not enough room to whip a cat round.

But, as Mr. Dick said, nobody wants to whip a cat round, so what does that matter to us?

The whole thing is kill-joy unalloyed. The children are enjoying themselves. Therefore, they must be doing wrong. How dare they be happy? And, indeed, in the poorer parts of the town of Oldham the question is not unnatural. The man who can find no windmill to tilt at more important that the picture shows, must be spiritually myopic. Good Mr. Dean, let us ensure to the Oldham kiddies happy homes, plentiful nourishment, the chance to become healthy and useful citizens, and let their innocent amusements alone.

SOLDIERS' WIDOWS.

A study in contrast.

The Honorary Secretary of the Manchester "Crimea and Indian Mutiny Veterans' Association" kindly forwards a copy of accounts for the past year. The President of the Association is the Lord Mayor, and its motto is "Lest we Forget." On receipt of these accounts we consulted our file of grievances in the matter of these veterans, and we are pleased to testify that they are very few—as a matter of fact, we have more from the wives of these old men than from the veterans themselves. We propose to deal with one such case. We do not blame them, knowing the difficulties with which they have to contend, and the meagreness of their funds. We hope, however, the following contrast in treatment will spur them on to insist upon the Executive Government doing their duty to the widows of men of the rank and file, in the same proportion as they provide for the widows of men of the commissioned ranks.

The Common Soldier's Widow.

Mrs. W——— is the widow of an old 39th warrior; she lives in Manchester, and her age is 63. At the age of 20 she got married, was on the establishment of the regiment for eight years, and during that time became a mother three times. Her husband served in the Crimea from December, 1854 to May, 1856, and was granted a small pension after 23 years' service. He died in 1903, and his pension died with him. Now comes the problem of the widow. With the loss of her husband, Mrs. W——— lost her sole support. So long as her health remained, she earned her living as a charwoman, but the time came when she could work no longer; then she applied to the different military charities for help, and from time to time she has been aided to the extent of about £7. She is now told that no more assistance can be given, and that her only course is to go into the workhouse. But the old lady does not wish to go into what she terms "the big house." She therefore asks us what she shall do. It is not a matter to joke about, or we might suggest that she went to sleep for seven years, at the end of which time she would be entitled to the old age pension.

Now let us look at the other side of the shield. Let us suppose that this woman had been the wife of an officer.

The Officer's Widow.

Before us we have a copy of the Royal Warrant. This is the work which governs the pay and pensions of soldiers, and from it we give the following quotation:—"An ordinary pension may be granted to the widow of an officer, provided that he survived his marriage at least one year, unless it be shown that he was manifestly in bad health at the date of his marriage, and that his death was caused by disease or injury not due to causes within his own control." Now let us put a case. An officer with 23 years' service would certainly not be under the rank of Major, and we look to our Royal Warrant again to see what would be the pension of an officer's widow in similar circumstances to those of Mrs. W———. We find that a grateful country would allow her £300 a year for life, so long as she remained single. Nor is this all. A compassionate allowance equal to one-third of the pension may be granted to each child. Other provisions are also made for mothers and sisters of any officer who may be killed in action.

At the present moment a Commission is sitting to enquire into the pensions of non-commissioned officers and men. Taking into consideration the facts as we know them, the question of pensions as a whole should be considered. It is all very well to shout, as we have done since Trafalgar, "England expects that every man this day will do his duty," but the time has arrived when England should do her duty to the widows of her veterans.

We appeal to the different military charities to do something for this poor woman. Her name and address are available at our office.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

See page 528.

IS CANADA WORTH KEEPING?—VII.

THE FATE OF BARNARDO BOYS—THE EXODUS FROM ONTARIO.

Our Commissioners at Work.

Our Special Canadian Commissioners are now hard at work in the Dominion, and we hope to publish their first Report in our next issue. They are making a thorough, impartial investigation into the actual conditions of life, and, armed with cameras, which cannot—or certainly ought not to—lie, the results of their enquiries will be placed before our readers from week to week. We desire it to be distinctly understood that in undertaking this task we are not actuated by any hostility towards the Dominion. That Canada is a great and wonderful country we should be the last to deny; but that it resorts to much misrepresentation in order to obtain by means of immigration the labour and population she requires is, in our view, equally indisputable. And it will be our aim to protect ill-informed people from leaving our own shores without knowing exactly what they have to face. We shall also publish such evidence as our Commissioners may collect of the growing ambition of the Dominion to shake itself free from British control. That sentiment, too, we are satisfied extensively prevails.

The Barnardo Boys.

With reference to the Barnardo boys, we have received the following from a responsible quarter. We do not, however, desire to make too much of the ill-usage to which the writer refers. In Canada, as everywhere, there is a minority of employers who ill-use children, but we are afraid that the minority is a considerable one, so far as it relates to Canadian farms:—

> In the summer of 1908, I was driving along the Parry Sound Road, in Muskoka, Ontario. I noticed a boy loading hay in a field close to the road. He was evidently at a job beyond his strength, and appeared in great distress. Having driven on a little distance I remarked to the owner of the hired conveyance in which I was travelling, that I never saw a boy of that age before at such hard work. He said, "*That is an English boy, sent out by the Barnardo people.*"
>
> The boy's appearance must have made an impression on my mind, for after getting back to England, and hearing a sermon preached in the interests of the Barnardo Homes, I told a friend of mine, who also heard the sermon, what I had seen. I now enclose this gentleman's name and address, and he will, I think, tell you that he mentioned the matter to the *preacher of the sermon*, and told the said preacher to refer to me. I have not heard any more of the matter; the *preacher never applied*.
>
> That case *I saw*, but I was told of a very much worse case in the same district, when I resided there about fifteen years ago. In this case the boy was tied to a tree and flogged nearly to death on more than one occasion, but before he was quite finished off some settler in the district happened to get wind of the matter and reported it to some authority, who got a few neighbours to visit the shanty and rescue the lad. I may say that this district, when I lived there in old times, was a very back-woods place, and though the people as a rule were of a kind and generous disposition, there were some queer characters. A child sent in there *might* meet good people, but as a rule it is not the good people who want children to make slaves of. I knew one widow woman who had a farm there, and *was* a good creature—and would have been kind to a child—but when she applied for a Barnardo boy she got no answer to several letters of application. It seems to be all luck for the poor lads. Some do well, some are starved, some are flogged, some prosper, others die!

Mr. Baker Replies to Previous Criticism.

We have received the following letter from Mr. Wm. Baker, the Honorary Director of Dr. Barnardo's Homes:

> My attention has been drawn to the article on page 410 of your issue of March 18th. In that article no clue is given as to the name of the boy referred to, the name of the farmer, or of the place where the boy was seen. If your correspondent will give me this information I will have the matter enquired into, and should the facts prove to be as stated, the boy will be immediately removed and the farmer will be prosecuted. If you or your agents will be good enough to send me information regarding any cases of cruelty to our children (including cases where they are called "Barnardo Brats"), I will immediately take steps to have such children removed, and, if the cruelty can be proved, to have the farmers prosecuted.
>
> With regard to the case which you have twice mentioned in recent issues of your paper, you may not have observed that the case was discovered by my own inspector within forty-eight hours of the alleged cruelty, and that the boy was at once removed and the farmer presecuted. I use the term "alleged cruelty,' because as the farmer has been committed for trial the case is still *sub judice*.

Ontario Farming Population.

A report just issued gives the latest returns by townships and counties, and it is noticeable that the most decide falling-off has occurred in the leading agricultural and long-settled communities. The figures are not the total county population, but that of the townships only in each county, excluding all urban municipalities. The counties selected are typical of the best agricultural sections of Ontario:—

County.	1890.	1900.	1909.
Bruce ..	40,859	38,923	34,129
Durham	20,726	18,326	15,702
Grey ..	52,189	49,339	42,160
Huron ..	46,220	43,173	37,350
Kent ..	32,140	33,502	31,965
Middlesex	46,857	44,214	40,607
Norfolk	23,380	21,303	19,488
Ontario	30,452	27,663	25,239
Peterborough	18,440	12,694	10,928
Simcoe ..	48,263	50,782	47,173
Victoria	21,088	19,782	17,534
Wellington	34,372	31,444	28,087

It must be borne in mind that throughout the period covered by these statistics a steady stream of immigration, stimulated by bonuses and assisted passages, and encouraged by the most glaring falsehoods and misrepresentations, has been pouring into these districts depleted by the migration of the native farming population. Year by year thousands of farm labourers, or persons professing to be such, have been distributed throughout these and other "prosperous" Ontario counties, lured by the deceptive promise of good pay and steady work only to meet with disappointment and find themselves compelled to seek other fields of employment—or unemployment. Even the cold charity of Toronto, with an occasional job of street-cleaning, is preferable to starvation in the country. And still the cry for more farm labour goes up, and the Canadian Parliament and Ontario Legislature continue to vote large annual appropriations for bonuses and assisted passages to alleged "farm labourers," and for scattering broadcast in England the most plausible and specious lies as to the opportunities awaiting the labourer and the "small capitalist" in the agricultural districts of Ontario. The Press of Canada, with a few honourable exceptions, with these facts staring them in the face, has, strange to say, nothing to say in condemnation of the system.

A STRANGE STORY.

EXTRAORDINARY TREATMENT OF ENGLISH LADY BY CAPE TOWN OFFICIALS.

A lady, who asks us to withhold her name, has told us a strange tale about her experiences as an emigrant to South Africa. This lady had lived in South Africa some twelve years, earning her living as a teacher, when she decided to return home, and she left that country in 1909. At the beginning of the present year she resolved to return. She had obtained an appointment as governess in the household of a German family in that colony, and she left for Cape Town on the *Braemar Castle*, which sailed on January 13th. Before sailing, the lady had filled up the usual forms required by the Government and the Union Castle Mail Steamship Co., and in the form filled up at the instance of the Government she stated, under printed question 13, that the money she took with her to the Colony was between £5 and £10. On showing the papers to the Union Castle authorities in London, she was told they were quite in order. On the arrival of the ship at Cape Town on February 4th, she was refused permission to land, and although she was within sight of the houses of friends who were waiting to welcome her, she was not allowed to put a foot ashore. The Emigration Officer asked her how much money she had. She said between £5 and £10. He told her she must have a guinea for permit, and another £20, if she was to be allowed to land. She told him she could not find any more money than that which she had, and which the Union Castle authorities had told her would be sufficient. The Emigration Officer repeated his refusal to permit her to land. She told him she had an engagement with a family, and she showed a letter from the head of it bearing out her statement, but it was of no avail. She was sent on to Port Elizabeth, transhipped to the *Galeka*, and found herself in England again early last week. We might add that whilst the ship was at Cape Town she had another offer of an appointment from the Principal of the Wellington College, a well-known institution.

On returning to this country, the Union Castle Steamship Co. asked her how she proposed to pay her return passage. She replied that she could not pay it, and up to the time of writing no further steps have been taken, but there is nothing to show that the company will not press their demand for payment.

It need hardly be said that the lady considers that she has been very scurvily treated. She was told before she left England that her papers were in order. No suggestion was made by the shipping authorities that she would have any difficulty when she got to Cape Town. It might well seem to her that any trouble such as that which arose need not be feared. She had been a resident in South Africa for many years. She was going to take up an appointment with a citizen of repute; she was a person of unblemished character; she owed nobody anything, and she had a few pounds in her pocket. Why, then, should the Government refuse to allow her to land, and, by compelling her to return, wreck her whole future? Why, indeed?

On her way home, the lady wrote to the Minister of the Interior, Cape Town, stating the facts we have given above, and asked for an explanation. In reply, she received a letter from Mr. E. Brande, Acting Under-Secretary for the Interior, dated February 28th, and this letter aggravates her grievance, for it attempts to justify the refusal to allow her to land by statements that have no foundation in fact. Here is the quotation from the letter of which she complains:—

> From information in the possession of the Government it would appear that in one way and another you had unfortunately during your previous residence in Cape Town been compelled to rely upon assistance given you by friendly disposed persons, and that as a matter of fact your passage had been subscribed by them. Taking these circumstances in conjunction with the fact that you were not in a position to produce to the Immigration Officer on your arrival any money of any kind, and having in view the fact that enquiries made showed that there was no offer of permanent employment which could be regarded as definite, it seemed altogether the kindest thing, as well as the necessary thing according to the law, for you to return to England, where a lady in your position can look for more suitable provision and better opportunities than are afforded in this country.

Now this statement is a skilful manipulation of facts for the purpose of justifying an indefensible act. There is not a shadow of truth in the statement that the lady had relied upon the assistance of "friendly disposed persons." When, in 1909, she wished to come home, she found that the very poor pay that a governess receives in South Africa had not enabled her to save the money necessary for her passage, and an old friend, a lady, generously gave her the money to obtain her ticket. How it came that this kindly act of private charity, an act which honoured the giver without in the faintest degree dishonouring the receiver, came to the knowledge of the officers of the Cape Government, the lady does not know, but she is certain that the person who paid her passage did not give the information. It is equally untrue, in fact, to say that the lady had no money when she reached Cape Town, though in a sense it is true. We said above that she took with her some £5 to £10, but that being her all, and naturally being afraid that on the passage out she might possibly mislay the money, or lose it, she very prudently remitted it to Cook's Bank in that town. When the Immigration Officer asked her about the money she said she had the sum we name, but, of course, she could not produce it; it was not on her person. She told him where it was, and he might have satisfied himself of the truth of her statement if he had cared to do so. Equally untrue is the statement that the lady had received "no offer of permanent employment." We have seen the letter from the lady to whom she was going, and we have seen the letter from the Principal of the Wellington College, in which she is offered an appointment.

We do not think there is much more to be said about the matter, but it is difficult to restrain indignation when we reflect that a lady of irreproachable character, travelling from England to one of England's colonies for the purpose of taking up honourable employment is not permitted to land, and is sent home just as if she were some Russian nihilist. It is an odd Empire, this of ours.

SUGAR SLAVES OF AUSTRALIA.

By Ben Tillett.

To work in tropical heat, smothered in running boils due to the furry growths on the sugar-cane; to receive as little as 4½d. an hour, or to average 6d. an hour, is not Elysium or Eldorado. To work from sunrise to sunset, the engine-drivers working 12 hours on the Chillagoe Fields for 4s. 2d. per day, scanty rations and accommodation—insect infested—certainly has no prettiness in the picture. Neither butter, vegetables, nor simple change in breadstuffs possible. Out of these scant wages all stoppages, due to wet season or accident, mean a docking of the miserable wages. And this after the Colonial sugar-refinery companies have in five years paid dividends amounting to £3,200,000. White labour has been reduced below the level of the Kanaka labour, and is cheaper because of the wretched conditions imposed upon them. These companies exact a huge subsidy from the Government. Apparently the subsidy is granted unconditionally, hence the low standard of living. These things are common knowledge in Australia, but apparently unknown here. This charge applies to Queensland and also to Victoria. Men and women and little children, while assured by the Emigration Agents of comfort, decency and good prospects, find themselves dumped on the land in Victoria without a stick or habitation for shelter. Mr. Spence, Member of the House of Representatives, stated in the Federal House some time back: "Thousands of people are being brought to Australia, and those who have any chance of doing so get away back again at once, and tell the truth to the people of the old world, whilst those who have to stay here write to their friends at home and warn them not to come to Australia. . . . Girls who have been brought out as domestics have been driven to ruin, and on the streets of Sydney. The Government have spent money to bring that about."

What has Sir G. Reid to say to this?

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

See Page 522.

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"RE(-)STORING" IS VERY SICK.

WE THRUST FAME ON SOME WHO DO GOOD BY STEALTH.

The Re-Stor (Institute, whose address is at 1, St. Agnes' Place, Kennington Park Road, S.E.,) according to its pamphlet is "The centre of a great work of human endeavour which has for its sole aim the alleviation of pain and suffering amongst all classes of the community"—the particular pain and suffering referred to having its origin in diseases of the leg. Although the usual charge is two guineas for "treatment" at the Institute, "no one whom the Re-Stor Treatment can benefit is turned away." We are, therefore, dealing with philanthropists, and however shocking to their modesty, we think it but fitting that they should come forth into the light of day in order that their "great work of human endeavour" may receive due recognition. The papers filed at Somerset House by the Re-Stor Institute, Ltd., show that the three directors—this is a striking confirmation of the proverb that "all good things go in threes"—are:—

James Eastwood (Chairman), 31, Heathland Road, Stoke Newington, Analytical Chemist.

Edward Arthur Terry, 1, St. Anges' Place, Kennington Park Road, Gentleman.

William Hartmann, 1, St. Agnes' Place, Kennington Park Road, Gentleman.

We have reason for supposing that, like Dr. Jekyll, these gentlemen are known by other names. Mr. Terry, the philanthropist, when he is not "endeavouring," is, we ascertain, known as Warren. In the same way, Mr. Hartmann throws off his German name and becomes Dr. Wright. Mr. Eastwood is a little more difficult to follow; his habits are migratory. His permanent address appears to be at 5, Duke's Brow, Blackburn, where he is known as Cooper; though upon the occasion of his visits to London he stays with a friend at the Stoke Newington address.

The above particulars are given for the benefit of any sculptor desirous of "knocking 'em" in the Kennington Park Road with a classic group. The trinities which occur to us at the moment are the Furies, the Fates, the Graces and the *Harpies*.

We are sorry to have to drag sordid money matters into such a sweet idyll as the "great work of human endeavour," but, to paraphrase the servant girl's immortal remark, "the amount is only a little one." The paid-up capital of the Institute is shown by the Somerset House files to be three pounds. We are, therefore, naturally anxious to know how the philanthropists—who, according to our enquiries, are not plenteously blessed with this world's goods, however much their "great work" may be lying up for them elsewhere—have managed to get along.

Another little matter which puzzles us is that, whilst the Institute was not registered until February 18th last, it is already publishing a testimonial from "Case 4,332." If we were not dealing with philanthropists, we should say that the publication of such testimonials (neither the names nor addresses being given) is an attempt to obtain money by false pretences, which deserves the attention of the Public Prosecutor.

We await developments.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

"A CERT." TIP FOR THE BOAT RACE.

The Battle of the Blues is nigh,
Now who will win the race?
'Tis hard to say, but put your gold
On Oxford for a place.

SHE DROPPED HIM.

(*Mr. Hopewell Smith, of the Royal Dental Hospital, says that chocolate is extremely bad for the teeth, and recommends acid drops as a highly-desirable substitute.*)

When I attempted to be up-to-date,
And said I'd give my girl no chocolate,
But acid drops instead, she bade me stop,
And gave me tit-for-tat—an acid "drop."

RICARDO.

"JOHN BULL'S" SPECIAL TRAINING REPORTS.

"NATIONAL" HORSES AT WORK.—SPECIAL NOTES FROM OUR MEN OF OBSERVATION.

BY M. O. SALE.

WHITTINGEHAME.—A rainy morning, and our trainer being out on the golf links, no work of importance was done, the teams having a few short canters in charge of Acland-Hood, the head lad.

Unionism, a fine upstanding horse that did well a few seasons ago, has filled out into a grand stallion. He will stand at 90 guineas, among the first to be mated with him being Hysteria, one of the Suffragette mares trained in the Clement's Inn stables, that showed up so prominently last back end. There is a rumour also that Home Rule will be one of his visitors shortly—such is our trainer's caprice.

Referendum has dropped a foal by the same horse. I do not fancy that alliance will prove a satisfactory one.

Tricky Tactics, our Liverpool representative, is undergoing a thorough preparation with a view to the race, and is well. I am afraid the mare, being thoroughly exposed at the time the weights were allotted, has more than enough to carry. She is no money of mine.

ALDERSHOT.—Roberts' National Service (trainer up) did a rattling gallop over fences, striding along. This is a gross horse and requires an enormous amount of work to get into condition. I cannot recommend him with any confidence as a vehicle for speculation.

BIRMINGHAM.—Austen Chamberlain's team trotted. A statement has appeared in a contemporary to the effect that Imperial Preference has a leg. This I am in a position to contradict, and it is as well that the true facts should be laid before the public as quickly as possible. When some five weeks ago the horse was kicked at the post by Lord Northcliffe's Daily Mail, slight inflammation set in and a course of veterinary treatment was found necessary. A set-back in the horse's "National" preparation was unavoidable, but nothing more serious has occurred. Though convinced that he will be on the premises, I have my doubts about his passing the post a winner. All the same, he is an improving sort, and, judiciously placed, will pay to follow.

WESTMINSTER.—McKinnon Wood's and Macnamara's strings took healthy exercise. So hot has criticism waxed regarding his capabilities as a trainer, that the former, I see, has been induced to rush into print regarding the chances of Declaration of London, now under his charge. The truth is, the last-named is not, and never will be, a Liverpool horse. The Great Lancashire Steeplechase is much more likely to be his journey, but even at the Manchester venue, Imperial Conference is one I would take to beat him at the weights.

THE CURRAGH.—Redmond's Home Rule has come on wonderfully of late, and as the opposition looks like proving weak has quite a winning chance. She is a lovely mare to look at, and, all that American money and Irish training ability can do for her having been done, she will get to the post as fit as the proverbial fiddle. She must on no account be made a loser.

DUNDEE.—Churchill's Prison Reform is well. He lays his ears back when galloping—always a danger signal, to my mind, though some good and generous horses do the same. Shepherd has been engaged to ride—if he can be found in time.

EAST FIFE.—Asquith's Creation of Peers, which has been rushed to a false price in the so-called market of the London clubs (quoted at 7 to 1 in to-day's *Daily News* and *Manchester Guardian*), ran sour in a trial this morning and seems a trifle stale. He has been worked to death these last three months, and badly needs a rest. Putting him down as by no means a certain starter and no Blucher in a gruelling finish either, he is distinctly better to lay than back.

ALFRISTON.—Bottomley's Business Government has trained on into a magnificent horse, and the stable make no secret of their confidence in his ability to win. His owner has accepted 5,000 to 1,000 (twice) and the horse promises to start a raging favourite. The "heads" are all on him.

Mr. S. Keary, of Glasgow, who wrote to us on the 12th of March, is requested to send us his full address.

EUGEN SANDOW THE MAN MAKER.

THE MAN WHO MAKES MEN OF MEN AND WOMEN OF WOMEN.

An interview in which are set forth Mr. Sandow's Remarkable views on the Health Possibilities of every man and woman, and a direct offer made to Readers of "John Bull." Specially contributed by G. Leslie Armitage.

"All the world," says the poet, "loves a lover." And in equal truth may it be said all the world loves a man.

The characteristic most prized in a man is manliness. "And," said Mr. Sandow, when interviewed a few days ago by the writer at the Sandow Institute in St. James's Street, "manliness is but the fruit of the tree of Health."

There is a something irresistibly magnetic about Eugen Sandow, the great pioneer of physical culture. It is, perhaps, as much to this healthy, virile, personal magnetism, as to his deep and unrivalled knowledge of the human body, that Eugen Sandow owes his present unique position. For he is not a teacher of athletics; he is not in any sense a gymnastic instructor; he is not, as so many imagine, only a body builder. He is a man and a MAN-MAKER, and a WOMAN-MAKER.

"I do not like people to describe me solely as a physical culturist," declared Mr. Sandow. "The phrase is far too limited. I regard physical culture only as a means to an end. I do, however, insist on the fact—the well-established fact—that there must be a physical basis of success.

Mr. Sandow informed me that many keen business and professional men and women were at present learning from him the invaluable art of regaining lost health, and that in his register of patients, besides the delicate children whose cases he undertakes, were inscribed the names of mercantile princes, of famous lawyers, doctors, clergymen, of great authors and authoresses, actors and actresses, and brain workers of both sexes.

His face beamed with pleasure as he drew my attention to the unique public testimonials of his work which had appeared within the last few weeks in the pages of three of London's leading publications—Mr. Labouchere's *Truth*, the *Review of Reviews*, of which Mr. Stead is the editor and proprietor, and JOHN BULL, which is controlled and edited by Mr. Horatio Bottomley.

"I want you to issue on my behalf to every ailing man or woman who reads JOHN BULL," he said, "my personal invitation to them to visit me here at my Institute."

MR. SANDOW IN HIS CONSULTING ROOM.
Mr. Sandow is always pleased for ill and ailing men and women to call for a consultation, without cost or obligation, and to inquire about the inquirer's health trouble personally. Mr. Sandow invites any reader of "John Bull" who is suffering illness or out of condition to call upon him at his Institute, 32, St. James's Street, London, S.W., or to write him there if unable to call.

At my request, Mr. Sandow specified cases which he invited. They are men and women who are martyrs to indigestion; chronic dyspeptics, sufferers from nervous disorders in their many forms, people to whom the hours of night are hours of dread, because, although tired in body and brain, they are unable to secure refreshing, strengthening sleep; and others whose troubles are rheumatism, or gout, or obesity, or lay in their liver or kidneys, lungs or heart, as well as those who suffer from skeletal deformities and those who merely require bracing up.

"Of course, I cannot cure everybody. I have never said otherwise; but until I have investigated a sufferer's case I cannot tell. Then, if I think I can effect a cure and the sufferer wants to be cured, I will undertake the case, but if I cannot I shall candidly say so."

And now a word as to Mr. Sandow's treatment itself. It is a wonderful treatment, because, while it does not include the taking of drugs or medicines, it is applicable to persons of all ages, men and women, young, middle-aged, and elderly, and equally to children of tender years.

"Patients generally express their astonishment at the easy movements I set them," said Mr. Sandow. "But it is the easy movements, systematically carried out, which bring about the desired results, without any sense of fatigue.

"Certainly I do not give the treatment free," Mr. Sandow concluded, "but anyone can call for a personal consultation and advice without charge or obligation, and they will find the cost of treatment quite within their means; or, if they cannot call, I will send them one of my books and my written opinion free of charge and post paid."

I leave my readers now with Mr. Sandow's offer before them, with this advice—"Go, if you can, and see Mr. Sandow personally at his Institute, 32, St. James's Street, London, S.W. My experience has been that there is nothing like a personal visit to carry conviction or the reverse, but if you cannot possibly call, write to him, selecting the book you require from the list given on this page, and filling in and forwarding the Coupon below."

AN UNIQUE Library of Health Books which Mr. Sandow has recently produced at his own expense to give to all who suffer from any of the complaints with which they deal. A copy of any one of these books will be sent gratis and post paid to any reader of JOHN BULL who cannot call and who applies to Mr. Sandow, 32, St. James's Street, by filling the adjoining coupon. The book will also be accompanied by a personal letter from Mr. Sandow giving his opinion upon his or her health trouble.

Sandow's Illustrated Health Library.

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APPLICATION FORM.

FOR SECURING ADVICE AND LITERATURE CONCERNING THE SANDOW TREATMENT, POST TO EUGEN SANDOW, 32, ST. JAMES'S STREET, LONDON, S.W.

Please send me, gratis and post free, Vol. No. ..... in Sandow's Health Library, together with an opinion upon my case.

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(Please say whether Mr., Mrs., Miss., Rev., or other Title.)

ADDRESS .....

.....

Age..... OCCUPATION .....

NATURE OF ILLNESS .....

Condition from which relief is required.
Give further detailed particulars in a letter.

JOHN BULL, April 1, 1911.

MORE QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

CAREFULLY MIS-REPORTED BY RICHAR D MORTON.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair after it had been dusted.

SIR IAN HAMILTON'S BOOK.

MR. PEEL asked the Secretary for War whether he would arrange for the publication of a volume containing views different from those expressed by Sir Ian Hamilton, and whether he would inaugurate a series of interesting books, to be called the War Office Library, the first volume to be written by ex-Lieutenant Sutor?

MR. HALDANE: The official answer to the first part of the question is that Sir Ian Hamilton has already expressed the official view, and the officials are quite satisfied therewith and desire no other. To the second part of the question the answer is that such a Library would be foreign to the best interests of red tape and quite un-Sutorble to official requirements. (Loud laughter.)

SUFFRAGISTS IN PRISON.

MR. SNOWDEN wanted to know whether the two gentlemen in Pentonville Prison, sympathisers with the "Votes for Women" movement, were being forcibly fed?

MR. CHURCHILL: As the prisoners refuse to eat like ordinary grown-ups possessed of ordinary intelligence, they are supplied with a bottle and tube, through which their food is delicately administered. There is no force employed; it is just a return on the part of the prisoners to the days of their babyhood. (Laughter.)

SALE OF WORKS OF ART.

MR. CROOKS desired to enquire whether steps could not be taken to stop the sale of valuable works of art in the hands of private owners, to the end that precious and unique objects should be retained in this country. He spoke from that love of art which was all in all to him.

MR. ASQUITH sympathised with the feelings of the hon. member, but did not know at present what he could do. His idea was, however, to recommend the Chancellor of the Exchequer to subject such sales to taxation and to take, say, ninety per cent. of the sale price by way of unearned increment. (Ministerial cheers.)

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION.

EARL WINTERTON: Regarding the proposal to submit all international disputes to arbitration, had the Government ascertained the views of Japan, France, the Prince of Monaco, the Rajah of Sarawak, and the owner of Lundy Island?

MR. MCKINNON WOOD: I have nothing to add to the replies already given.

EARL WINTERTON: Then I beg to state I shall repeat the question to-morrow, and every day from now on until the Millennium—till I get the answer I desire.

MR. HUNT: Won't you desist on the first of April?

EARL WINTERTON: No, certainly not.

MR. HUNT: You'll have to. It's a Saturday. (Laughter.)

COURSE OF BUSINESS.

MR. BALFOUR asked whether, considering the arrears of public business and the mass of business awaiting attention, any plan could be formulated for getting a move on?

MR. ASQUITH regretted that progress had been so impeded, but he thought matters would improve if the right hon. gentleman would induce his friends in that House and his noble friends in another place to allow the Veto Bill to pass without further discussion. That would greatly simplify things. (Ministerial cheers.)

MR. BALFOUR said he was not entitled to speak for the noble lords in the other place ("Oh, oh!" and EARL WINTERTON: "Certainly not."), but if his opinion were invited, it would be to the effect that he imagined they would not be taking any. (Opposition cheers.)

MR. ASQUITH: Then, in the circumstances, to enable the Government to pass those measures to which it is pledged, the only thing I can suggest is the postponement of the Coronation.

SIR F. BANBURY: Isn't that rather unlikely?

MR. ASQUITH: The contingency is certainly remote, and in the alternative we must consider the shelving of some measures.

MR. BALFOUR: I can assure the Prime Minister of the cordial assistance of the Opposition in the shelving of as many measures as he pleases. (Opposition cheers.)

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CXXXV.

AN APPEAL FROM A V.C.

We want some of our readers, with their usual liberality, to help James Colliss, who is now in great want. Colliss joined the Army (Royal Horse Artillery, C Battery, B Brigade) in 1871, at the early age of sixteen, and remained in it until 1881, when he retired and joined the Bombay Police. On retiring he was given an excellent character. Whilst in the Army he served in the Afghan campaign in the E Battery, under Major Blackward. He was at Maiwand, and on that disastrous day behaved with conspicuous gallantry in saving the sick and wounded. His conduct on the occasion is thus referred to in a series of articles on "Stories of the V.C.":—

> Gunner James Colliss, of the Royal Horse Artillery, was awarded the V.C. for his pluck on this tragic day. He was as full of humour as if on the barrack field at Woolwich, cheering the wounded, obtaining water when possible, and binding their wounds. There was still something better to be done. A defile was reached in the wretched road, and all became blocked. The Afghans were upon them. The gun with the wounded was in the rear. The enemy closed and opened fire, point blank on the maimed men. Colliss, in order to draw the fire off the wounded, dashed obliquely towards the Afghans, carbine in hand. They immediately directed their fire upon him, and he replied. Not a bullet touched, though hundreds were fired at him. The gun moved on and the wounded were saved.

He was in the Bombay Police for some years, and when he left he brought away with him an excellent character. On returning to England he remained here until 1888, when he was specially re-enlisted, and went to India again, and was invalided home and discharged at Netley Hospital in 1891. In 1893 he entered the Charing Cross Hospital with rheumatic fever. After staying there three months he came out, and from that time onward until 1907 he worked as a carman. Since then he has suffered much from bronchitis and asthma.

Lately he has become worse; work has been more difficult to get, and despite his endeavours he has fallen into arrears with his rent, and is often wanting for food. There is, of course, the workhouse, but this old soldier has a very pardonable objection to ending his career in that miserable institution. His wants are very few, but few as they are, they cannot be satisfied without money. He is often in want of a meal; he will soon be in want of a roof over his head, unless he is given a helping hand. With a pound or two he might be able to jog along and make enough to live.

We may be asked how it comes that if Colliss was awarded V.C. he is destitute, seeing that although the recipient of a V.C. cannot claim £50 a year as a matter of right, it is always given where it can be shown that there is want. The answer is simple. Colliss's life was wrecked by the misconduct of his wife. He left her in India, where she was seduced by a high official. Many years after returning to England, Colliss married a second time, but he had not divorced his first wife. The second woman of his choice was worthy in every way. She has proved a good wife to him, and he a good husband to her, but it came to the knowledge of the police that he had a wife still living in India, and he was charged with bigamy, and sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment. That involved the loss of the V.C. We do not think our readers will stay their hands because Colliss committed the offence we have described.

We have received the following amounts, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:—

CXXIX.—E. B., 5s.; R. M. C., 5s.; "Joe," 1s.

CXXXI.—J. H., 1s.; M. M., 5s.

CXXXII.—M. E., 1s.; "Clericus," 1s. 6d.; "Another John," 1s.; "Rifleman," 1s.; "Primrose," 1s.; R. M. C., 5s.; W. O. A., 1s.; N. & B., 5s.; M. C. C., 5s.

CXXXIII.—"Watts," 6d.; "Jim," 5s.; "Sympathy," 6d. and parcel; "Clericus," 2s.; W. R., 3s.; C., £1; "Black and White," 2s.; "Salcombe," 2s. 6d.; F. W., 2s. 6d.; "Carisbrook," 1s.; "Lenten Savings," 2s.; E. & A., 1s.; "Memory," 1s.; A. J. B., 9s. 6d.; N. D. P., 3s. 4d.; W. N., 2s.; M. H., 1s. 6d.; E. & B., 2s. 6d.; E. B., 5s.; "A Devonian," 10s.; "Andom," 2s. 6d.; J. S., 10s.; "Babs," 6d.; "Walter," 5s.; "Don," 2s.; J. B., 2s. 6d.;

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BATHS.

By Jim Crow.

[Mr. James Crow is our Licensed Crank. A brilliant exponent of unconventional ideas—invariably distorted and lacking in perspective; cynical and epigrammatic in expression—he is a journalistic cat amongst the pigeons. We accept no responsibility for his opinions—or his life.]

The prime object of baths is not cleanliness or even godliness, but the promotion of beatitude. Otherwise people would just wash and have done with it, remove the impurities of the skin and hurry off to business or pleasure.

Balneology.

It ought to be quite possible to write an interesting history of baths. The Romans used to enjoy them in the days of great luxury. The Greeks, on the other hand, being a kind of prehistoric version of the French, used to content themselves with smearing their bodies with oil, which, by the way, is not so nasty as it sounds. In the good old bottle-nosed, sporting, rubicund days of our ancestors, in the roast-beef, pudding days of the Hanoverians and Dr. Johnson and pseudo John Bull, baths were regarded as effeminate. Fighting, hunting men would no more have dreamed of a matutinal tub than of eau de Cologne on their handkerchiefs or rice powder on their ruddy necks. Then in our generation an entirely different attitude arose. It was considered horrid, froggish, almost unmanly not to have a cold plunge every morning. Old manor houses, wherein bluff squires never dreamed of instituting facilities for ablutions, had to be provided with bathrooms even at the risk of upsetting the drainage. Whereas the fine old English gentleman, who did the grand tour of Europe and imbued the Continent with the notion that all our countrymen rolled in riches, was quite content to find basins about as big as saucers, the modern British tourist has been a missionary of ablution until the meanest Swiss hotel-keeper finds himself compelled to provide opportunities for splashing about.

The Cost of Cleanliness.

No wonder, for he has acquired a kind of prescriptive right to charge fabulous sums for the use of his bathroom. Hotel-keepers are a race by themselves, and may claim certain indulgences, on the ground that they have much to put up with. But when we remember that a bath costs very little to instal and that water is still cheap (at least in comparison with champagne), the prices charged for baths are monstrous. Half-a-crown a day mounts up to nearly £50 a year, and that is a big slice out of the income of the cleanly. Even a shilling a day may be regarded as a severe tax upon the godly.

Lavatorial Luxury.

The explanation, of course, is that baths are regarded as a luxury, much as the editor of a certain weekly paper contemplated them when he wrote that they ought to be denied to boys lest unwholesome thoughts should be engendered. For my part, I am innocent enough to see no evil in water so long as it is used for external purposes only. But then you know that to the pure all things are pure. If it came to extravagant or abnormal bathing, I might see fit to protest. But the sensation of a cold plunge provides only healthy, joyous, invigorating emotions. It cleanses the mind as well as the body. How divine is the glow when you emerge, panting, into the folds of a great, rough towel. How sublime, too, is the sea in the tropics, or the river half-way through the desert; how difficult to tear yourself away from their entrancing embrace. Even the cold, grey waters of northern climes have their particular potency. Your teeth may chatter and your flesh become anserous (what a pretty, round-about way of suggesting goose-flesh!), but the momentary torture is an introit to great gladness. How virtuous and self-satisfied we feel after the ordeal.

The Hospitality of Heat.

Wallowing in hot water also possesses compensations. I know scarcely any finer stimulant to the imagination. Indeed, most of my sublimest inspirations occur when I am flat on my back in an atmosphere of steam and soapsuds and loofahs. It is only then that I know I may not be disturbed. The telephone bell may ring never so wildly, duns and bums may congregate on my door-step, printers' devils may roar after their prey, but no Peeping Tom can penetrate the privacy of my alcove.

Nights in the Bath.

Allow me to suggest to tired hedonists that they might find fresh fields by inquiring into new orders of the bath. What special sanctity has ever belonged to water? I understand that the Scandinavians gratify themselves by immersion in snow. That is perhaps a little too drastic for Sybarites like you and me. But the steam-bath of the Russian furnishes incomparable delights. You sit on a marble slab while buckets of water are being cast upon a red-hot stove. Gradually great white mists, suggesting the Jinn of the desert or the cobwebs of the fairies, steal forth and fill the air, encompassing you, overshadowing you, until you can no longer recognise your hand in front of your face. You are lost, hidden away in an entirely new world, so mysterious, so uncanny, and yet so supremely comforting that you may fancy yourself already in the abodes of bliss.

Subtle Sensations.

Pine baths are also very pleasant to forest lovers, only they ought to be accompanied by the music of crickets and the benevolent illumination of fire-flies. Turkish baths, as we know them in London and Paris, provide satisfactions which are different again, for the action of dry heat is more abrupt, more crude, more violent than that of voluptuous vapours. As a matter of fact, they are not at all the same as the baths of the Orient, from which they are nominally derived. If you are bold enough to visit a hammam in Constantinople or Smyrna, you will find that the hottest room is comparatively cool. You will have to recline much longer on the marble slabs before your perspire. You will be offended also by pungent odours, perhaps even by creeping things, and you will not issue forth with the same sense of purification. For my part, I think I should prefer to immerse myself in warm olive oil, only that would have to be followed by a shower bath of vinegar, and my tame rabbits might mistake me for a salad.

The Excellence of Ethics.

This all sounds much wickeder than it really is. For my part, I contend that, as nature has endowed us with nerves which are susceptible to friendly and adverse influences, there is no particular reason why we should not extract all the pleasure we can out of them. Some people like to have Kummel rubbed down their backbones, or vine leaves in their hair, or other facilities for aberration. Some people like massage or hair brushes or cutting their nails, and stimulate their brains according to their own fancies. *De gustibus* . . . so long as they do not disgust us. I disapprove of anything which induces evil ideas. But all must be their own judges as to the effects of their indulgences. I might wallow in olive oil with impunity while you might not lift up your little finger or your petticoat without being in danger of the judgment.

The Salacity of the Sea.

Let us therefore not be in too great a hurry to urge our Borough Councillors to prohibit mixed bathing. It is incredible to me that there can be anything wickeder in mixed bathing than in mixed dining. The amenities of the table are not more desperate than those of the ocean, or the river, or the public bath. Contact with water conduces to sobriety, whereas the delights of the table have been known to inspire regrettable familiarities. It is much safer to be in the sea than to be half seas over—so far as morality is concerned. Nor does bathing necessarily imply nudity. The French, of course, are the most immoral people in the world, particularly when they frequent seaside casinos.

The Publicity of Promiscuity.

But bathers seem to dress quite as carefully for the sea as they do for the dry land. Mademoiselle does not even expose her little toe. She may be garish, vulgar, loud, but you see no more of her as she trips down towards briny waters than you would at a dinner party. Much less than at an Opera-ball or even a fashionable function. The publicity of the sea is a prophylactic against promiscuity.

Assume for the sake of argument that you or I were heartless flirts; let me put it to us in cross-examination that we should prefer dry land for our aberrations. Besides, I may be wrong, but in my humble opinion, neither sex looks at its best when impregnated with salt water. Our hair goes out of curl, our complexion vanishes, our bathing costumes cling to unexpected parts.

Why worry? You talk a fat lot about cleanliness, but you know you never bathe in anything except whisky.

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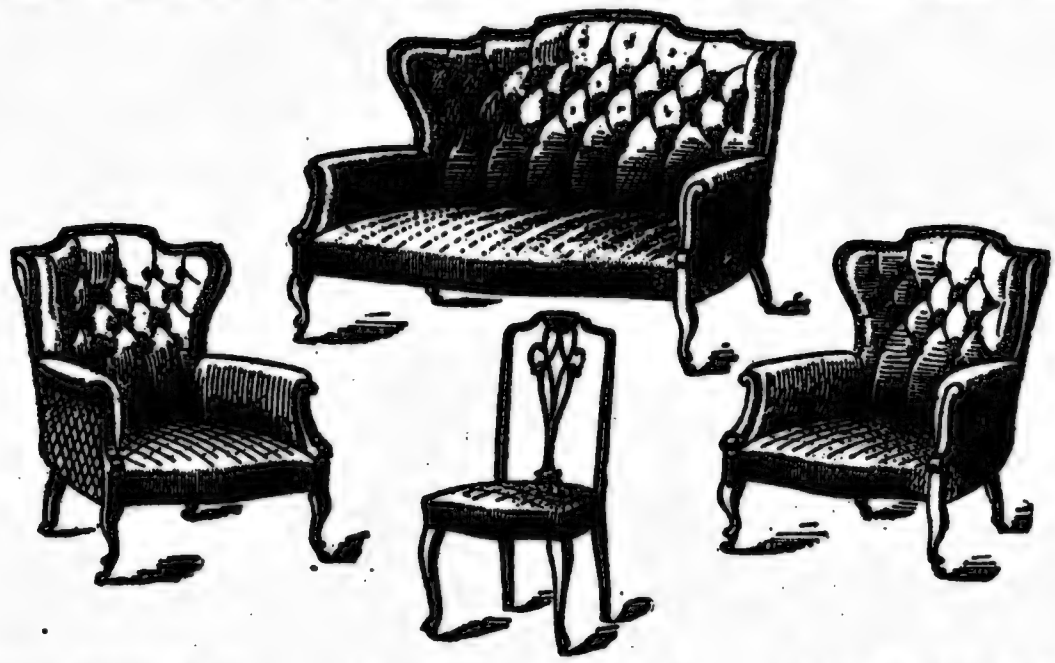

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OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS AND TELEGRAMS.

To the Chairman, Urban Council, Wombwell.

Dear Sir,—You had a very pleasant meeting the other evening, I notice; at any rate, pleasant to you. The Council had advertised as vacant the post of assistant overseer. All the applicants having been weeded out except four, the Council thoughtfully interviewed them. Of these four candidates, dear sir, I perceive that one was your son, Mr. W. Robinson, and another Mr. A. C. Oxley, the son of the vice-chairman. Seven members of the Council thinking your son should have the appointment, while the other seven favoured the vice-chairman's boy, you, having no doubt in your own mind which was the better of the two, elected your son by a casting vote. He must have been grateful for your paternal solicitude, for though he was also a member of the Council, he handed in his resignation *instanter*, and accepted the post with a feeling heart. Pray ask Mr. Oxley, the vice-chairman, not to be down-hearted. I cannot doubt that one of these beautiful mornings there will be another appointment going, and unless you have a second son who would like it, or, failing him, a nephew, an uncle, or a father-in-law, I doubt not that Mr. Oxley, junior, will then come into his blessed inheritance.

John Bull.

To C. B. Eustace Ford, Esq., Brookfield, Shepherd's Hill, Highgate, N.

Dear Eustace,—It has afforded me great pleasure and admiration to peruse the correspondence between yourself, as the churchwarden of St. Augustine's, Highgate, and Arthur Lee Barber, Esq., Secretary of Tramways, County Council of Middlesex, Tally-ho Corner, N. As I should have anticipated, the spiritual and commercial instincts are allied in you to the point of beauty, as in most churchwardens. With admirable, I might almost say with picturesque, cogency, you tell Mr. Barber what a boon and a blessing it would be to many of your congregation if the Council would authorise a halfpenny fare from Church Road (near the police-station) to the Langdon Park Road. On this matter I am heartily in agreement with you, for these be hard times indeed, and what the congregation saved on the tram ride they would be able to put into the collection-box. The company need not permit the general public to participate in the ha'porths on this portion of the track. All your congregation need do would be to produce their hymn-books to the conductor when requested so to do. "If your Board," you write to Mr. Barber, "in considering this question would also allow you to give on their behalf five guineas towards our church completion fund, it would be a means of letting their kindness be recognised in our parish magazine."

Though I am not a phrenologist, my dear Eustace, all this induces me to believe that you are a man of genial and even sunny disposition. How you must brighten the church with your hopeful spirit when you take round the collection plate! It is true I have never yet known or heard of a tramway company subscribing five guineas to a church completion. From what I know of tramway companies, they are merely fare and dividend collectors, and they are so immersed in their duties that it would be contrary to precedent for them to devote their time and attention to the additional work involved by your suggestion. From Mr. Barber's reply to you, I gather that this absence of precedent much troubled not only himself, but his directors, for he regrets that the company "cannot undertake to make donations to the funds of the various churches in the districts we serve." You would, of course, have been justified in pointing out to him that you did not request the assistance of the company on behalf of any church other than your own. Unfortunately, you did not continue the correspondence. Still, you had a good try.

John Bull.

To Lady Betty Balfour.

My Dear Lady Betty,—Your attempt to explain away Lady Selborne's improper use of Lady Constance Lytton's name in a bogus letter to the *Times* is creditable to your heart, but "too thin." My advice to you is, if you have any influence over the lady, keep her as excluded from pens, ink and paper as the *Times* will in future keep her veracious contributions excluded from its columns.

John Bull.

To the Right Hon. Winston S. Churchill, M.P., Home Secretary.

Dear Winston,—I don't know if it is a case of evil communications corrupting good manners, but you have certainly lowered yourself in public estimation very considerably since you have had the egregious Masterman as a companion. The case of Mrs. Woolmore was one in which you ought to have instantly ordered the poor woman's release. You said she was weak-minded, which is untrue. She was weak because she went without food herself to give to her children, and was only able to clothe herself in rags. I wonder how your wife would clothe herself and feed your child if she had only 16s. per week out of which to pay rent, buy food, firing, and every household necessary? I wonder if your wife would do any better if she had to provide for five children, and had no water supply in the house, and the nearest drinkable water was 400 yards away from your dwelling? Your action in this case and in the Suffragettes' complaint makes me, I am sorry to say, ashamed of you, and I am the sorrier because I liked you.

John Bull.

To B. L. Phillips, Esq., National Sporting Club, Covent Garden.

Dear Sir,—By the time this reaches you I trust the differences between yourself and Messrs. Heath and Miller, of the Sporting Club, will have been amicably adjusted. The evidence before Mr. Justice Lawrence in the High Court, upon your claim against these gentlemen, did not convince the jury that you had much to complain about. Evidently they thought you were the aggressor. Mr. Heath's story was that in round 1 you started to fight him with your boots, and that in defending himself you slipped down, pulled him with you, kicked him in the face, split his nose, and blacked his eyes; and that in round 2 you made a running kick at him, he stepped aside, and then knocked you down—to be picked up and carried out by the hall-porter. I have nothing to say regarding these pathetic details, except that Mr. Heath had to go to a theatrical costumier to get his two black eyes made up normal, and that the National Sporting Club is the sacred home of boxing, and not of kicking.

John Bull.

To the Viscount Haldane, K.C.

My New Lord,—I do not know whether to congratulate you on your "elevation," for you might take that to imply beerage rather than peerage. Indeed, I am disposed rather to condole with you on your approaching political demise. For, unless you still have your eye on the Woolsack, you can have few prospects of promotion now. Indeed, a little bird tells me that the next double-shuffle may leave you stranded high and dry in some honorary office. You are a good fellow, kind, genial, imperturbable, and I wish you well. I even admit that you have been a better War Minister than your immediate predecessors. But it is not businesslike to place a lawyer at the head of the military organisation. Nor have you even a fighting temperament.

John Bull.

To the Right Hon. Colonel Seely, M.P.

Dear Jack,—I welcome your transmigration to the War Office as forerunner of a Business Government. You will now be one of the very few men in the right place.

John Bull.

Sir Charles Holroyd, Keeper, National Gallery.

For goodness sake withdraw offer anybody giving £95,000 for purchase Rembrandt's "Mill" can have name walls Royal Academy any size he wishes. Lipton or Joe Lyons may be after you.

Bull.

Earl of Shaftesbury, House of Lords.

Note your Bill to remove match-sellers, flower-sellers, and newspaper lads off streets when boys under 17 and girls under 18. What particular jobs do you propose find them?

Bull.

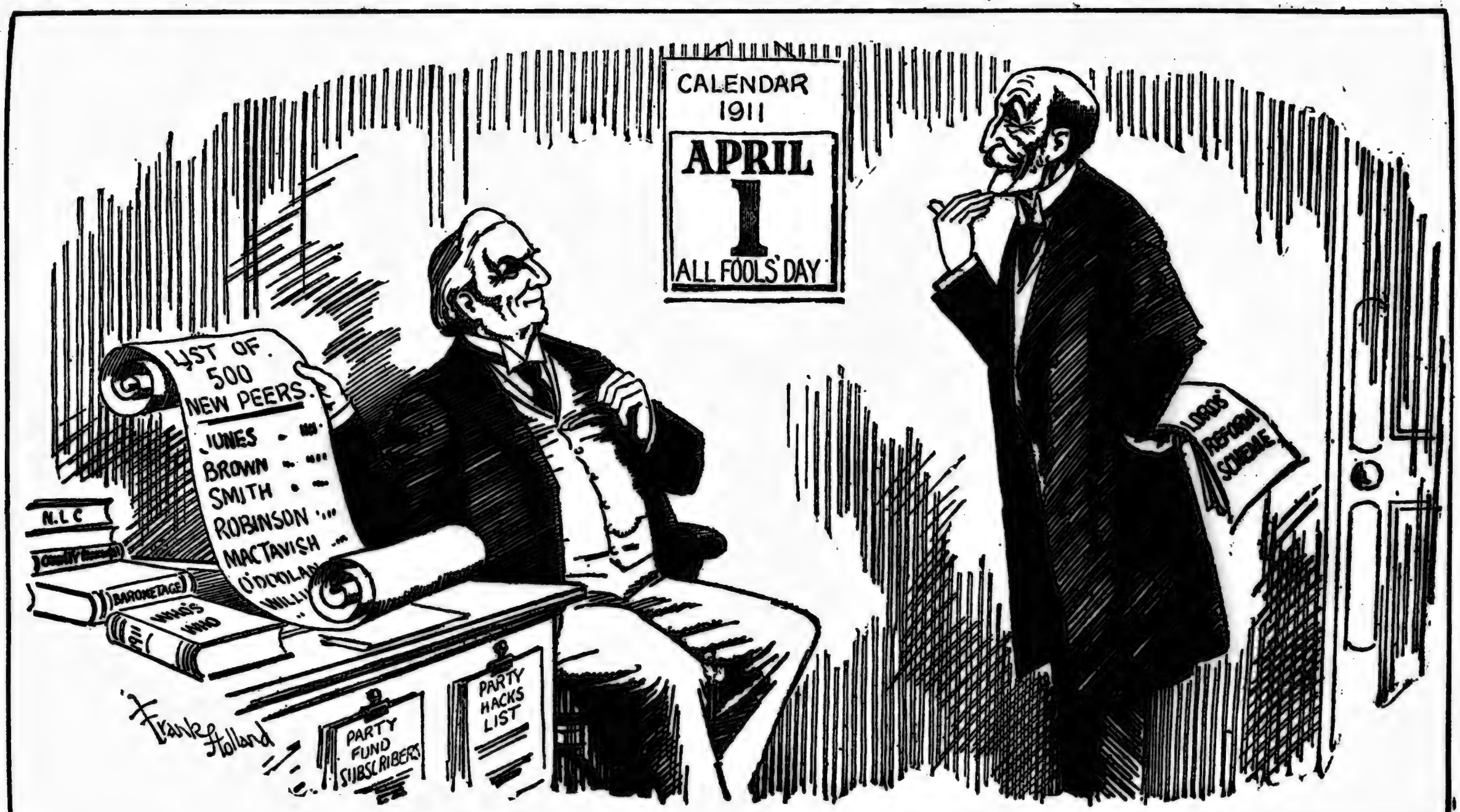
Magistrates, Willesden.

Agree with your remark that a Scotsman no right get drunk on St. Patrick's Day. New Year's Day is *his* day out.

Bull.

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL MOMENT!

(It is stated that the Government have already made out the list of 500 new Peers which it is intended to create, if necessary, to force the Veto Bill through the Lords.)



ASQUITH: "You see, Lansdowne, the list's all complete."
LANSDOWNE: "H'm. Going to—er—publish it TO-DAY?"

April 1st, 1911. JOHN BULL. 5d.

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

By Verax.

Coming Ease and Plenty—What to Buy.

With the turn of the quarter very easy money is coming, and plenty of profits are within the reach of the far-seeing investor. My space is very limited to-day, and it is, therefore, a question of *multum in parvo*. I do not believe in *Hotel shares*, while *Egyptians*, in view of the attitude of the Government, are not promising, yet a rise has commenced, especially in *Aboukir, Delta Rails, National Banks*, etc. I commend the *Rubber and Oil shares* mentioned further on to my readers. Amongst *Home Rails, Great Central Preference 1894*, at 65, are the pick. They should get their full 5 per cent. this year. The rise in *Metropolitans* is overdone, but *Midland Deferred* and *Great Western*, at 75¼ and 129½ respectively, are still a good purchase. *Canadian Pacifics* continue to climb—now 226½—and amongst *Yankees, Atchison* at 112½, paying 6 per cent. dividends, with good crops and trade, are the most promising. *Buenos Ayres Great Southern* and *Buenos Ayres Western* look like going better with dividends maintained. The *Buenos Ayres* and *Pacific* is expected to pay 2 per cent. Dividend-paying *Kaffirs* and well-selected *Rhodesians* are also bound to rise.

Moderate Recovery in Kaffirs and Rhodesians—Paris Settlement Stops the Way.

As I anticipated, the South African market has finally gone on the up-grade, and even our French neighbours have in their saner moments turned buyers of Kaffirs, which are indeed now an excellent purchase. The statements made at last week's meeting of the *Rand Mines* at Johannesburg were to the effect that, although the 207,999 *Rand Mines* shares which constitute the purchase price of the Wernher, Beit assets will rank for dividend from January 1, 1911, the shares themselves will not be negotiable until December 31st, 1913. That settles the question of Messrs. Wernher, Beit and Co. wanting to rush out of *Rand Mines*. With reference to the *Consolidated Goldfields*, the Second Preference share issue has been over-subscribed, and now stands at a moderate premium. According to my view there are excellent bargains to be made in the dividend-paying shares to which I drew attention in the issue of March 18th, and some of the very cheapest shares are *Randfontein Central* and *Randfontein South* at about 2 1-16.

The Rhodesian market has not as yet gone ahead at all vigorously, yet proportionately there are better chances in the Rhodesian market, from the speculative point of view, than in the Kaffir Circus. I gave a list of Rhodesians last week, and I need only add that *Amalgamated Props.* have now improved to 7s., *Cam and Motor* to 15s. 6d., *Falcon Mines* at 1¾, *Hay Mines* at 1 11-16, *London and Rhodesian Mining and Land* shares at 1 9-16, *Lonely Reef* at 2¾, *Rhodesian Gold Mines Investment* at 1⅞, and *Rhodesia Exploration* at 2⅛, are some of the very best shares to be bought in this market, and eventually they will rise to a much higher level. According to an *African World* cable from Buluwayo, the *Hay Gold Mine* and the *Cam and Motor* are furnishing excellent development data, and a cyanide plant has been ordered for the latter mine. It is also stated that the *Thistle Etna* has struck the reef at a depth of 600ft., and that is another mine which is forging ahead. The Jungle market is marking time, but there is an improvement in *Taquah Exploring* and *Abosso*, on favourable developments on the mines, while in the coming move in the Jungle—and the move is coming very soon—shares that will give a good account of themselves are those of companies with good prospects combined with sound management and low capitalisations. Foremost among these are *Gold Coast Explorers* and *North Tarkwa*, both of which should be bought while they can still be obtained at present low prices. Tin has advanced to £187½, and in view of the favourable statistics which are expected for April a further rise is looked for. By the way, in reply to some of my readers who are enquiring about *Chillagoes*, now quoted 6s. 3d., I may state that these shares have been suffering from the effects of the landslip, which, though being on the Government railway, affected the Chillagoe Company's system, causing a falling-off in the railway traffic and in the output of metals, as the ore could not be carried down to the smelters. However, now that things are righting themselves, a return to the old traffic and metal output figures may be looked for, and consequently an early appreciation in the price of the shares, the intrinsic value being as great as ever.

"Bear" Attacks on Rubbers Stubbornly Resisted—Points for Low-Priced Shares.

There is little doubt but that Mincing Lane feels sore at having lost control of the hard Para market, and is trying to hit back at the Brazil Syndicate, but the latter should come out on top, barring untoward accidents. Fine hard Para, which has been down to 6s. 2d. spot, is now improving again at 6s. 4d. per lb. Rubber shares have been subjected to a good deal of "Bear" pressure at times, but have always come up smiling again, and thus *Linggis*, after having been below 49s., are now better again at 51s. All the indications go to show that for the next year or two any moderate reduction in the price of rubber will be compensated for by larger outputs and reduced working expenses. As I have pointed out already, my readers would be well advised to stick to the sound dividend-payers amongst the leading companies, while those who cannot afford to fly too high will find low-priced producing shares attractive. Thus, the *Island Para* has actually entered the ranks of the producers, a shipment of 3,740 lbs. of rubber having been made per the s.s. *Hilary*, which is due here next Saturday, while there are already in hand 1,400 lbs. towards the next shipment. I may mention that this company expects to have a crop of 40 to 50 tons this season, so that the payment of dividends may be expected in the not distant future. Yet the shares are still obtainable at 2s. 3d. Then there are *David Young Rubber Estates (British Guiana)*, which relapsed sharply to 2s. 6d. on the death of Mr. David Young, who had been in ill-health for some time; this is doubtless the reason of the delay in further shipments of rubber. A sub-manager has now been appointed, and there will be no interruption in the work. As the shares are firmly held, they should promptly recover to at least 3s. *Rubber Exploration* shares are advancing steadily, and a further incentive for a rise is to be found in the forthcoming flotation of a subsidiary company, arrangements for which, including the underwriting, being now, we are informed, completed. Certainly, at 2s. 6d., with its large assets and its increasing interests, the shares are cheap, more especially as another bonus may be looked for to add to the large profits already made by shareholders from the past options, which practically represented cash. By the way, there has been considerable movement during the last few days in *Turicalli Rubber shares*, to which I directed attention last week and which now stand at 1⅛ to 1¼, and I think the market looks like hardening.

Oil Shares have a Preliminary Canter—Further Rise Coming.

The preliminary canter which has taken place in Oil shares shows that the market is ready to go ahead on the least encouragement. Perhaps the most significant development is the well-informed option buying which has been going on in *Shell Transports* for end June. *Spies* have been over 34s. 9d., while *Mexican Eagle* are well to the fore at 34s. 3d. The Russian group has been very prominent, especially the lower-priced shares, but I still prefer to pin my faith to the Maikop division, and to *Black Sea Oilfields* Ordinary, at 21s. 6d., in particular. As the pumps are now complete, the pipe line will soon be at work. An outstanding feature has been the strength of *Oil Trust of Galicia*, at 1⅛ premium. According to the circular issued, the profits estimated at 25 per cent. in the prospectus will by a comparatively small increase in capital be raised to 80 per cent. The latest tip is *Cheleken Oilfields*, at 1 17-32. The issued capital of this company is only £225,000, and it owns a property in the Island of Cheleken, in the Caspian Sea, the greater portion of the oilfield of the island being operated by Messrs. Nobel. The oil is of such high quality that it fetches from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per ton more than Baku oil. The company is so placed that it can, within a month of obtaining production, start selling oil, and expects to earn profits on one well alone sufficient to justify a considerably higher price than the ruling quotation. This well has already commenced to overflow oil, and there is every indication of a strong spouter being struck very soon. More wells are being opened up. *General Oil and Finance*, now close to "par," deserve every attention. *New Zealand Oilfelds*, 2s. fully paid, now obtainable at 1s., are one of the cheapest Oil shares in the market, and are likely to see a much higher figure. Last year the shares were in strong demand at over 3s., and the prospects to-day are as good as they then were, and matters are more advanced. The *New Zealand Oilfields* is an important undertaking, with 4,000 shareholders, something in the neighbourhood of £50,000 working capital, owning Oil concessions of about 230 square miles, and enjoying the sympathetic support of the New Zealand Government. The company's vast area is favourably situated for accessibility and transport and the fact that the property is in British territory may weigh with investors in this All-British week.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX.

(1) Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, 9, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

(2) Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials, under which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.

(3) Replies are made only in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter.

(4) In no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.

(5) If inquirers wish it, for transacting business, the names and addresses of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.

(6) A Postal Order for 1/- must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

£40 CLAIM AGAINST OUTSIDE BROKER.—You ought to have taken information about this Birchin Lane firm before doing business with them, as more than half the outside brokers are doubtful. These people apparently never intended to pay you, but you have certainly full claim upon them, which you can easily enforce through your solicitor.

ORANGIA MAIN REEF.—COMMO.—I cannot find any trace of this concern, which does not appear to be in existence. In any case, there is no market in the shares.

CALCUTTA SWEEPSTAKE.—JACK (Terrace Road), and C. J. B. (East Ham).—As already stated, this is quite a respectable sweepstake, largely patronised by Indian officers. I may say further now that tickets can be obtained from the secretary of the Calcutta Turf Club, 33, Theodore Road, Calcutta. They are Rs.105. each, both on the Derby and St. Leger week. The former closes on May 21st, and the latter about 10 days before the races are run. But you will have to cable.

NEW FOUND-OUT.—C. H. M.—These shares have fallen from your price of 18s. to 17s. 6d., but while I should not have recommended them at what you paid, I think you might now risk holding them, as they will very likely come to the front again whenever the Rhodesian market braces up.

£100 INVESTMENT.—A SMALL INVESTOR.—Don't put the money into building societies, but buy sound securities, such as Caledonian Railway Four per Cent. Convertible Preference, at about 105; the yield on which works out to nearly 4 per cent. per annum.

£5 PER CENT. INVESTMENT, ETC.—SON OF NEPTUNE.—I see no reason to sell North-Eastern, in view of the bright outlook for Home Rails generally. The following selection of Canadian investments should suit you:—Nova Scotia Steel and Coal 5 per cent. Gold bonds, at 96; Lake Superior 5 per cent. bonds, at 98; Montreal Cotton 5 per cent. bonds, at 100. As regards your last query, my invariable rule is to advise dealing with members of the Stock Exchange.

RUBBERS AND OILS.—ELACS.—Instead of Nos. 1 to 3, take the following selection:—Jequie, West Jequie, Sampang Javas, David Young, and Island Para. No. 4 (Dominion Sawmills Debentures) are a fair second-class Canadian holding.

RUSSIAN VENTURES.—Be very careful. I will communicate the result of my investigation as soon as completed.

BUILDING SOCIETY.—WALSHAM.—Amongst the numerous building societies there are many badly managed, and I do not know enough of the one mentioned by you to recommend it as an investment. SALOPIAN.—The trend of land legislation is against such societies, and the smaller concerns are, more especially, affected thereby. In the circumstances, I advise you to invest in sound securities in preference.

FOREIGN LAND INVESTMENT.—S. H. R.—CONSTANT READER (Barking).—There are considerable possibilities about this, but it is, of course, a speculation, and you must take your own decision in the matter. Same reply to W. W., G. H. L., and C. S. W. Harrods' Stores shares are a good investment.

HUNGARIAN LOTTERY.—A BAKER (West Kirkby).—I cannot advise with regard to the Hungarian Lottery, as such things are illegal in this country. The lotteries in themselves are respectably conducted, under Government supervision, but the money sometimes sticks to the fingers of the intermediaries.

ANTELOPE SHARES.—F. H. C.—There has been some better news since, and you should certainly hold for a smart recovery.

ESSEQUIBO RUBBER AND TOBACCO.—RADIX.—This company has been rather disappointing, but it does not seem to be advisable to accept 1s. 10d. for the shares. With some patience, they should go better.

NEW HERIOT AND GOLDEN RHODESIA.—G. C. (Edgware Road).—New Heriot shares are now firmer than they have been, at 5¾, and likely to improve, but Golden Rhodesia went into liquidation last year, and is now known as Hartley Consolidated Mines. There is, however, no market for them. What you require has been forwarded. This should be a lesson to you to have nothing to do with such outside brokers, who have altogether neglected your interests.

5 TO 6 PER CENT. INVESTMENTS.—ROVER.—Of course, none of these stocks are gilt-edged, and many of them have a very narrow market, notably Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 8 to 13. I should prefer leading Home Rails, on reactions. East London (5) are a pure speculation, and everything depends upon electrification prospects. Some of the stocks mentioned are free of State taxes, but the point is not brought out in the case of others. I do not care for No. 4, and No. 6 is second, and perhaps only third-rate.

CANADIAN INDUSTRIALS.—NORTHERN.—Both are promising Canadians, but the stocks can only be regarded as speculative holdings.

SOUTH AFRICANS.—UMTALI.—All the concerns mentioned are either dead or moribund. There is no market for any of the shares.

LABRADOR TIMBER LANDS, LIMITED.—M. S. W.—This company does not appear to have been brought out. At all events it is not quoted here

GREAT BOULDER PERSEVERANCE.—SHERLOCK.—This West Australian mine has been paying well in the past, but after the fire it is now doubtful what will be the result of the working, and there is always the fear that the mine may give out. I should advise waiting for the returns before buying. What you require has been forwarded.

RANDFONTEIN ESTATES.—C. J. C.—You should not sell these shares now. It has been officially stated that all future profits will be divided, and you will get a far better price by waiting, now that the company has a number of dividend-paying subsidiaries, in which it holds large blocks of shares.

LAND INVESTMENT.—ENQUIRER (Caerphilly); MINER (Rowlands Gill).—Considerable possibilities, but naturally speculative.

VANGUARD.—MIND THE STEP.—I am afraid not. The prolonged delay is due to the legal difficulties, which are only being gradually surmounted. There is nothing for it but patience.

ULUNDI GOLD MINES.—JERSEY LILY.—I have already answered this inquiry. It seems to be a case of promises versus performances, and I do not like the concern. Moreover, there is little or no market for the shares.

OUTSIDE BROKERS.—FLYWHEEL.—As a working man, and with a few pounds, you should not deal with outside brokers, like No. 1 or 2. There have been many complaints with regard to No. 2. Here to-day and gone to-morrow, is their history. MRS. T. (Stockton-on-Tees).—(1) I should not advise you to enter into the "Stock Unions" to which you refer. (2) Highly speculative. (3 and 4) You should employ a stockbroker, member of the Stock Exchange, who will advise you. H. D. (Devizes).—(1) Promising, but highly speculative. (2) Have nothing to do with these outside brokers, about whom there are complaints. (3) Very risky. (4) You had better deal through a member of the Stock Exchange. W. N. P. (Pendleton).—As far as I know, these people have disappeared. Did they owe you any money? E. L. (Chelmsford).—What is the good of your sending money to outside brokers Nos. 1 and 2, when you have precious little chance of making anything, and more likely will lose it? (3) You might invest the £50 in South-Eastern Deferred, which are likely to further improve. Oil shares should be held. There are great chances in this market. NANTYMORE.—(1) Respectable outside brokers, but you can do far better with a member of the Stock Exchange, who will not try to get you out of your stocks in order to put you into others which he wants to sell. (2) There is no market here for the Whiting Manufacturing Company, U.S.A., 20-year 6 per cent. Mortgage Gold bonds, and the company is not doing over well. GET SQUARE.—If you cannot get square with these people, send a solicitor after them. There are many complaints. DOUBTFUL.—Respectable outside brokers, but they would probably induce you to sell your own stocks in order to buy others in which they are interested. H. R. S. (Witney).—Of course, this is merely an attempt to throw dust in your eyes. You would never see the money again. I send what you require. R. R. (Lanarkshire).—My invariable rule is to recommend dealing only with members of the Stock Exchange. CAUTICUS (East Dulwich).—I do not edit the advertising pages. You will find it far more satisfactory, in the long run, to deal with members of the Stock Exchange. The various firms last mentioned are all outside brokers of a dubious type. DELTA.—Nos. 1 and 2 are fairly respectable, and I have received no complaints with regard to No. 3, but, as you must know, I always prefer stockbrokers, members of the Stock Exchange. H. R. N.—Quite so. Your experience has been so far satisfactory, as you get your cheques, although only under pressure. Some day, however, cheques might not be forthcoming. A. M. (Fulham).—You evidently have been very badly treated by Beveridge Clarke and Co., Wolstenholme Buildings, Market Street, Manchester, outside brokers, but how could you leave £20 with them for so long? The only way will be to send a solicitor after them. C. W. G.—These are outside brokers, who publish a paper. It may be sometimes right, and sometimes wrong, and is ably, if sensationally written.

RUBBERS.—CONNAUGHT.—Yes, hold Sumatra Para and United Sumatra, which are good rubber holdings of their kind. If you want any further rubber shares, you cannot do better than buy Jequie and West Jequie. F. V.—Yes, you can buy hundred shares of each, and the following selection should suit you:—Jequie, David Young, and Island Para. G. S. (Belfast).—You can purchase, say, fifty shares, but instead of those mentioned, go into the more promising low-priced concerns, notably Sampang Javas. The brokerage would be a penny per share. A. A. (Southampton).—No. 2 is a fair low-priced rubber share, but instead of No. 3, go into Jequie, Island Para, Sampangs, or David Young. These would also be preferable to the Rhodesians (1). GAWTHORP.—About the best share of the lot is No. 2. Sell the others when an opportunity offers, and go into the shares mentioned to "A. A. (Southampton)." NOTTM.—Put the money into either Jequie, David Young, or Sampang Java. J. A. (Cumberland).—I send you the address of a broker through whom you can make your proposed purchase of Sampangs. CRESSON.—This company is producing rubber, but the shares have dropped out of the dealings at present. The latter concern is rather a market favourite, and has fair prospects. MRS. KITCAT.—David Young would best meet your requirements. The shares are 2s. each, fully paid, and quoted at about 2s. 6d. BERCHCROFT.—This company should do very well eventually. I do not advise you to sell, but to average, provided you look upon the shares as an investment, not as a speculation. W. T. S.—The first-mentioned rubber shares are unmarketable, while the others are quoted nominally at 6d. to 9d.. I do not like either. With regard to the Bland Light Syndicate, it does not even appear in the usual books of reference, and there is no market for the shares. COCHRANE.—Put the money into David Young in the first place. West Jequie and Island Para are also attractive low-priced holdings. GOLDRUBSTA.—I do not like the concern myself, and I fancy the organ in question even less. Whether you could prove misrepresentation is a question of time and money, and I am not sanguine on the point. The shares are quoted nominally at 6d. to 9d. B. G.—I am afraid you are between the devil and the deep seas. The shareholders ought to get their money back, but if you join the movement in question you let yourself in for an unknown amount of costs, despite the agreement to limit the fee to 3d. per share, which does not hold good in law. Upon the whole, I do not think it would be advisable to throw more good money after bad. A. C. Z.—On any improvement, get rid of these oil shares. As regards the investment of £150, why not put it into North Staffordshire Railway stock, which will give you nearly the yield you require? A. K. (Nottingham).—The last dividend was an interim one at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, paid in November last, the next being due in July. You will participate in the latter. DRUG.—(1) Yes, about £10 worth. (2) You might buy Sampang (Java) rubber shares at 2s. 9d., or David Young at 2s. 3d. (3) This has been sent on.

(A large number of replies are unavoidably held over)

INSURANCE REPLIES.

Insurance Enquiries should be addressed Insurance Editor 93, Long Acre, W.C.

TWO INSURANCE COMPANIES.—G. H. B. (Luton).—We cannot recommend either, but of the two, we should prefer the second.

STAR LIFE ASSURANCE CO.—A. R. C. (Sunderland).—Yes, quite. The alteration in the form to which you refer is of no consequence.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE CO.—Z. S. (Herne Bay).—The friend who told you that the Prudential Assurance Co. is coming "to a tremendous crash through the working expenses being so heavy" is talking about what he knows nothing of. You need have no anxiety with regard to your policy with profits, which we have not the slightest doubt will be paid upon maturity.

STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO.—K. (Leeds).—The company is perfectly sound. You will remember the controversy of a year or two ago as to the bonus, when opinion was very sharply divided as to the policy of the directors, but it is a very sound and highly respectable company.

THE DREADNOUGHT INSURANCE CO.—H. J. B. (Langside).—We have no information.

EXCELSIOR INSURANCE CO.—M. W. (Coatbridge).—The answer is in the negative. We hope our friend, the secretary of the Toronto company of this name, will not assume we are referring to him in answering this question.

BRITISH EQUITABLE INSURANCE CO.—W. D. (Hull).—We are much obliged to you. The company is old-established, and is very well able to meet its obligations, but it has allowed some of its younger contemporaries to forge ahead of it. ANXIOUS (Hull).—We are afraid you cannot enforce a larger payment than the company offers you, which, so far as we can see, is in accordance with what they undertook to pay you in the contract entered into.

UNINSURABLE INTERESTS.—R. W. A. (North Rhondda).—You may insure a person for whose funeral expenses you are liable, or a person from whom you have an income.

MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE CO. OF NEW YORK.—J. F. G. (Cardiff).—Yes, certainly. It is one of the best of the American insurance offices.

NATIONAL BENEFIT TRUST.—E. R. (Edinburgh).—We do not think you could compel them to return the money. Let us see the correspondence, when we will answer you more fully.

ASSURANCE AGAINST LOSS.—E. A. L. (Chelsea).—We cannot understand what it is you want. If you will put the case more plainly, we will do our best to answer you.

VALUE OF SHARES.—F. A. R. (Gosport).—There are very few dealings in them.

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA.—A. G. (Muswell Hill).—The office is one of standing. We have never heard any complaints as to its treatment of customers.

OUR SPECIAL PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER IN SHEFFIELD.

A DOUBTFUL SHEFFIELD CHARITY—THE CITY GUILD OF HELP. TUESDAY MARKET DAY. SHEFFIELD GUARDIANS AND THE SHAVING OF PAUPERS.

With a list of officers headed by the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, the Master Cutler, Earl Fitzwilliam, D.S.O., and the Lord Bishop of Sheffield, followed by a long roll of local and other celebritics, the Sheffield City Guild of Help is, on the face of it, an organisation deserving of every charitably disposed person's support.

When one gets beneath the surface a little, however, there are some points which seem to call for further enquiry, and the more one seeks the worse the matter appears.

In looking through the Annual Report for 1910, one item stands out conspicuously, as a comparison, *i.e.*, "Income, £743, Administration Expenses, £805," but, not to be prejudiced, one goes further and tries to see a gleam of light in the detailed account. Alas, matters only get worse, for it is here that one can get a clearer idea of how the work is carried on under the guise of helping the poor and needy.

The amount granted in relief and loans amounts to £381, roughly, £7 per week, but against this actual outlay there must be written off over £21 loans repaid. To distribute this vast amount costs no less than £9 per week in salaries, £2 per week in printing and stationery, and £1 10s. per week in postages and telephone, also £1 per week in rent. The total cases helped number 679, or an average of 13 per week, not taking into consideration a few which figure on the report as "Referred to other Societies, or referred to Guardians," for one cannot call that help, at any rate from a financial point of view. Taking the account on the whole, it roughly shows that it costs £2 3s. 6d. to distribute £1 worth of help, the greater portion of which goes in official salaries.

For the year 1909 £586 was distributed in relief, but last year it dropped by over £200, yet notwithstanding this the salary account is larger during 1910.

So much for the Report; and now for the work done. Here is an instance:—"I have been out of work over 12 months. My wife cannot work as she is delicate. We have five children—four going to school—the youngest being five years old. Both myself and wife have applied to the Guild of Help for assistance, and taken letters of recommendation. All we have received from them over a period of five months was four pairs of second-hand boots. I have been an out-patient of the Royal Hospital for a disease brought on through want of proper food, and can only work now and then on account of weakness for the same reason. Our gas supply was cut off last October as we could not pay for it, and we went through the winter more often than not in darkness. The landlord has possession of our furniture for rent owing, and I took the bailiff's paper to the Guild of Help and asked them to help us. Nothing was done. On going again they said they would put the matter before the Secretary, but with no result. They promised to send someone to enquire, but nobody ever came. About two months ago I went and asked them if they could give me a little coat for the boy to go to school in, as he had none. They wrapped one up, but when I got it home I found that it was for a little girl, and was quite useless. I tramped back with it nearly two miles and showed them. The young lady took it from me and said that they had others who were not so particular, and I was not to come again until they sent for me. I got no coat, and have not been sent for yet."

Our Commissioner made enquiries into the case and found it was a deserving one, and was able to relieve the immediate necessities. When such urgent cases are treated in this way and practically ignored month after month, it would be interesting to hear what standard of destitution people must sink to in order to warrant the help of this organisation.

Reverting to the Report, we find that during last year there were only 84 cases reported as "Unhelpable," so it is evident that it could not have been on account of being overwhelmed with work that such cases are neglected.

The Tuesday Market Day.

Tuesday is Market-day in Sheffield. Not the market where the mother of the family goes out to spend the hard-earned wage of the bread-winner to its best advantage, for this is generally done on the Saturday evening. This is a different kind of market, and although possibly an every week affair to those who live in the city, comes as a revelation to one who is not accustomed to such scenes.

It is the day when the bluff country farmer brings in his produce—his hay, his vegetables, and other things appertaining to the tillers of the soil. And, like the chapter of a novel, every snare is cunningly set to try and net at least a portion of his returns.

Woman and wine hedge him around in all directions. Not the painted courtesan of the street. These are to be seen here and there, although they know that their harvest time is after dark. Here are syrens of somewhat different sort, and under a competent guide I take a walk around a few well-known haunts.

"Most of these are respectable married women," my guide states, "whose husbands are at work, probably under the impression that their wives are busy at home, and now look at them."

I saw that nearly all who were ungloved wore wedding rings; all grades were represented—workmen's wives, shabby but neat; clerks' wives, a little better dressed, and some, at first sight, ladies, with neat tailor-made gowns, furs, and shod in the best style, yet still the wedding ring in evidence. Mixed with these, almost grade for grade, are the bluff, red-faced, healthy-looking agriculturists, hob-nobbing with all or sundry, and making it evident, by their familiar style of address, that they are no strangers to each other. Christian names, and in some cases, pet names, are rife—two heads close together, a few whispered words, and a laugh, betoken the telling of a "funny" story, that greatest of all powers in breaking down the barrier to perfect familiarity. Now and then, in a quiet way, a couple slip away—who can say where? Best not to try and find out, best not to hint to the woman's husband why and whence that furtive retreat. It is a revelation even to a world-worn man, this market day in Sheffield. In one hotel alone no less than thirty-seven women were counted; in another, thirty-one. One is quite willing to take for granted the information given, that every hotel in the vicinity of this Tuesday market which might be visited would tell the same tale in a greater or less degree. A casual glance in the door gives corroboration; no need to go inside. Truly there are more things bought and sold at the Tuesday's market than market produce!

Sheffield Guardians and the Shaving of Paupers.

We have before us an advertisement from the Sheffield Union for applications for the post of barber and bath-attendant at the Union Hospital. When last vacant, an ex-Army man was taken on, who had been discharged from the service on account of his suffering from epileptic fits, and, although sympathising with the individual, we cannot but think that he was hardly a fit person to do the work. As a natural consequence, the man had an attack while on duty, and as the authorities were a little doubtful as to the wisdom of allowing an epileptic to have a razor, they promptly relieved him of the shaving part of his work. He is, however, until such time as the new appointment is settled, allowed to conduct the bathing of patients. It will be interesting to know what would happen should he have another seizure and fall into the water while bathing a delicate or infirm patient—also what effect it would have on the said patient.

THE NEW "FRY'S MAGAZINE."

A hearty welcome to this splendidly got up monthly—the current number of which contains a most flattering appreciation of our Editor.

THE SUPREME PROOF OF SUCCESS.

£475,050

THE FIGURES ATTEST THE FACTS.

For a considerable time past we have been telling "John Bull" readers that the man who is content to put his savings where they draw a beggarly interest and possess his soul in peace, is a type fast disappearing.

The "EVENING NEWS, March 11th, says:

"The man in the street has become more and more educated as to his opportunities of wielding the power of the purse in spheres far removed from his own street. We aspire now-a-days not merely to have a nice little sum snugly deposited in the Funds or at the Bank. We all want to be not mere depositors, but capitalists. The opportunities of tapping vast unexplored resources are no longer limited to a favoured few."

THE

National Share Exchange

has succeeded by its Unique System in making these resources available to every man and woman possessing a few pounds. The irresistible proof is that it has

Paid Away to Clients nearly Half-a-Million Pounds Sterling.

Those who shared that Half Million of money were men and women like yourselves who sought to make the most of their money. Will you let the capitalist have the benefit of your small sums, when you can be the Principal and profit by the method he employs? Our advices have brought prosperity to our clients because we have succeeded in reducing to a perfected system, the rich experience of the worlds' successful financiers. This System backed by a wealthy and influential organisation, commanding exclusive inside information, is substantiating its supremacy in the cheques

WE ARE DAILY PAYING AWAY.

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You may now share those opportunities which have been hitherto limited to the privileged few—through our sytem your few pounds are the key to those vast resources, that are bringing wealth to so many others.

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Will you be satisfied to see the pageant of progress pass by without likewise seizing the occasion to benefit yourself by the splendid results our methods are achieving? The experiences of all those others is proof positive of success.

We are on the Eve of still Greater Successes.
We Aim at paying Away another Half-Million.

Be one of those who to-day are reaping the fruits of our Unique System.

Take the First Step Free of all Cost or Obligation to You.

Learn how £6 may be DOUBLED and TREBLED in a Single Operation.

To the Secretary,
The National Share Exchange, Ct. Winchester Street, London, E.C.

Please forward me gratis and post free your booklet, "The Modern System of Money-Making," which is a clear explanation of the methods which have enabled you to pay to clients £475,050.

Name _____
(State whether Rev., Mr., Mrs., or Miss or Title.)

1d. stamp.

Address in Full _____

Date _____

(Please write distinctly.)

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MR. RUNCIMAN.

IMAGINARY INTERVIEW.

By Walter Moore.

"After your exhibition of bad temper in the House of Commons the other day, when Mr. Hoare drew your attention to a circular letter which had been issued by the late Chief Inspector of the Education Department, I made it my business to inquire what exactly are your qualifications for the position you occupy. You will not be surprised to learn that I found very little in your career to warrant your acting as President of the Board of Education."

Mr. Runciman's brows assumed a threatening contour.

"I find," I continued, "that you took a B.A. degree at Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1892, and that you proceeded to M.A. in 1895. So far, so good."

"Where did you obtain that information?" demanded Mr. Runciman.

"Wait and see," I retorted. "Permit me to continue. After leaving Cambridge you went into the shipping business. You became Managing Director of the Moor Line of Cargo steamers. Am I correct?"

"Where did you obtain that information?" again demanded Mr. Runciman, pounding the table.

"All in good time," I returned, pleasantly. "Keep your hair on, Walter. It takes some doing, as I know from experience. To get on with it, however. You also became connected with a number of other shipping organisations. Admirable training for an education expert!"

"Once more, I demand to know where you got that information," shouted Mr. Runciman.

"From *Who's Who*," I replied.

"Then you are a receiver of stolen property, a 'fence,' worse than the vilest thief!" screamed the President.

"You're not talking to Mr. Hoare, now," I reminded the enraged Runciman, "so you had better moderate your language. Let me advise you to loosen your collar. There, *that's* better. Now take a sip of water. Feel better now?—that's right. Bad thing to give way to passion like that, you know. Takes years off a man's life. . . . Now let us come back to this Education business. Be candid with me. What *are* your qualifications for the position?"

Mr. Runciman remained obstinately silent.

"I thought as much!" I cried, triumphantly.

"What do you mean?" growled wrathful Walter.

"You are silent. You have none," I responded. "Now tell me: speaking as a man who knows something about shipping, would you put a schoolmaster in charge of a cargo steamer?"

"Certainly not. The skipper of a steamship must have had years of sea-training, and have obtained a master's certificate from the Board of Trade."

"Quite so. Now, tell me further, if you were running the country on scientific or business lines, would you appoint a Director of a Line of Steamships to the position of President of the Board of Education?"

"Yes, yes; that's all very well," exclaimed Mr. Runciman, pettishly. "I see what you are driving at. You've got this new-fangled idea of a Business Government at the back of your mind."

"Not only at the back of my mind, but in front, underneath, on top, and all round it," I retorted. "At the same time, I have nothing against you personally. I recognise in you a business man. At present you are a square peg in a round hole. If you made a determined effort to control your temper in the House of Commons you might be a very useful member of a Business Government, but not in the capacity of President of the Board of Education."

"I am no believer in experts," said Mr. Runciman. "The recent trouble in the House to which you have referred arose in consequence of the action of an expert educationist with strong Conservative views. We *must* have a man of liberal principles at the head of the Education Department."

"What's the use?" I asked. "You, I suppose, call yourself that, but you did not prevent a Conservative subordinate from disseminating advice contrary to your ideas. The whole Department needs re-organising."

"Oh, for heaven's sake drop the subject," groaned Mr. Runciman, holding his head with both hands.

ANTICIPATED EPITAPHS.

By W. M.

Beneathe thys Stone
Repose
Ye Ashes of
Charles Frederick Gurney Masterman, M.A.,
Some tyme
Under Secretarie of State
for
Ye Home Department.
Marked out
By hys brilliant attainments at School and College
For a great career,
Hee hadde ye misfortune to become grievously infected
In hys earlie yeares
By
Ye foul virus of Partie Politicks.
Thys dread disease
Havinge alreadie manifested ittselfe sporadickallie
In ye forme of Bookes and Artickals in ye Magazines,
Anon broke out violently,
When ye deceased became,
Anno Domini 1903,
Ye Unsuckcessfulle Parliamentarie Candidate
For
Dulwich.
Rescued for a while from
Ye worste consequences of hys disorder,
He ackted as Literarie Editor to
That saintlie Newspaper
Ye Dailie Newes.
Butte
(Sorrowfull ensample of human infelicitie!)
Hys Maladie,
Abating butte to gather greater Strengthe,
Renewed itts ravages
Until,
Filled with partie frenzie,
Hee found hymself in ye House of Commons,
Member of Parliament for North-West Ham,
Anno Domini, 1906.
But hys title to fame, strange though it may seem,
Resteth notte on hys achievements
As a Parliamentarian
Butte upon hys unique talent
for
Whitewashinge.
None could slappe itt on lyke hee;
Hys dexteritie with ye brush became a byword;
His tecknique remains unsurpassed
To thys daie:
In proofe where of
Witnesse
Ye Akbar Reformatorie School,
Which Stands
A lastinge Monument
To hys supreme abilities.

Oh, dropped a tear upon thys tomb,
For one itts weight doth crush,
Who, whilst hee scorned to weild ye broom,
Used well ye Whitewash brush;
Oh, drop a tear; butte notte for hym
Lift your lamenting voice,
Butte for ye torture, foul and grim,
Thatte fell on Akbar's boys.

TRADE NOTE.

A Healthy Smoke.—There are numerous patents on the market to prevent nicotine from entering the mouth; some good, some indifferent. The latest is one which should prove of great value to those who desire, above everything else, a really pure cigarette. The principle of the cigarette is that it has at the end a card-board mouth-piece, and about a quarter inch from the end which is put in the mouth a fine linen mesh is tightly stretched. This acts as a filter, keeping back the nicotine, sandy substances, and tarry matter, which would otherwise be absorbed into the system. It can best be compared to a filter, which purifies water as this purifies smoke. These cigarettes, known as Royal Beauties, cost no more than ordinary high-class cigarettes, and are manufactured by Mr. Louis Coen, 316, Vauxhall Bridge Road.

The "SPORTSMAN" says:—
"The enterprise is carried on upon credit principles only, of course, and it has been so many years before the public that 'that plant of slow growth, confidence,' must be pretty deeply rooted now."

The "MORNING ADVERTISER" says:—
"Not the least remarkable feature of this gigantic concern is the fact that it is carried on upon credit principles entirely, and in no circumstances is cash or deposit business entertained."

DANIEL M. GANT

(Member of Tattersall's)
and the

British Sporting Public

☛ **Original and Straightforward Methods gained for me the title of England's Premier Turf Accountant, which title has been retained and Safeguarded by a deposit of £50,000 at my bankers to meet the requirements of this particular venture. My business has increased to such dimensions that I have acquired a long lease of new and more commodious premises at 41, New Bond Street, London, W., and there will be**

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and accept instructions from SMALL amounts upwards on the terms that have made my name popular in every Town and City throughout the United Kingdom.

I Trust You.

Credit accounts only, daily or weekly. Cheques to clients in payment of winnings signed in an assumed name. Instructions are accepted for all meetings the programmes of which appear in "The Sportsman."

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No Deductions. Full Starting Price Odds Paid on All Races.
Place Commissions even should the Favourite start Odds on.
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Inquiries treated Confidentially and Expeditiously. Monday or Daily Settlements.
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New and Only Address:
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From 25, Conduit Street.

THE DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

By M. Clement Scott.

"Lady Patricia."

Perhaps all unconsciously the thoughts of Tennyson's "Talking Oak" were rambling about the brain of Rudolf Besier when he sat down to write the new Haymarket play—who knows? But try as I would, I could not help recalling some of the late Poet Laureate's immortal lines, which seem to me to fit in so appropriately with the scenes surrounding "Lady Patricia." Might not these two verses alone be the very text from which Rudolf Besier has woven his comedy?:—

"To yonder oak within the field
I spoke without restraint,
And with a larger faith appeal'd
Than Papist unto Saint.
For oft I talk'd with him apart,
And told him of my choice,
Until he plagiarised a heart,
And answered with a voice."

Isn't this the Alpha and Omega of Besier's fantasy? Lady Patricia sits for hours in the "giant bole" of the great oak tree, droning out her soul yearnings into the ears of a slangy young lad who is half bewitched, and half frightened, by the somnabulistic vapourings of his beautiful cousin who, after all, never really sinned, but only played at "hide and seek" with a sort of spiritual temptation. As a foil to this illusory lady—who, acted by Mrs. Patrick Campbell, is "Mrs. Pat" to the life and manner born, with perhaps her whims, her fancies and her extravagant conceits ultra intensified, or may I say caricatured—is the plain, outspoken, honest, plump Mrs. O'Farrel, who smiles at Patricia's quixotic nonsense, and declines to believe that a middle-aged married woman has made a fool of herself over a lad scarcely more than twenty.

One of the best studies of character in Mr. Besier's play is C. V. France's Baldwin, the old gardener, and another is Dean Lesley, by the ever-amusing Eric Lewis.

Dare I venture to suggest to Cecilia Loftus that in the last scene there is an opportunity absolutely made for her to mimic Mrs. Campbell, and her weird, fantastic appearance in the Deanery garden when she "bleats" for a "*leetle meelk*" to sustain her shattered nerves? The third act of "Lady Patricia" is the best of the lot; the other two are somewhat monotonous. Mrs. Campbell's personality is all very well in homœopathic doses, but Mr. Besier gives us allopathic quantities, and they are sometimes difficult to swallow. The days also for putting lilies and precious stones into wine to make them drunk have departed with the tricks and art of Van Beers and his followers. There may be much that is clever in selecting Mrs. Pat Campbell and trying to wind an interesting story about her, but the actress herself is so difficult to understand to the average mind that it is almost impossible for an author to write for her sincerely, therefore the whole atmosphere must necessarily be charged with exaggeration and artificiality.

ELTHORNE HEIGHTS.

OUR ADVICE.

To-day our offer of Free Gifts of £5 worth of Freehold land at Elthorne Heights appears for the last time. A large number of people have already availed themselves of the unique opportunity of buying London Freehold on the most attractive terms, and, at the same time, they had the satisfaction of having their first payment of £5 doubled by the presentation of the coupon.

There are still many, however, who do not seem to have realised fully the great advantages of owning London Freehold. Now that this can be done with such great ease and without strain on the moderate purse, there should be a world-wide appreciation of the great plan which has enabled everyone to become a freeholder. We would urge those who have not yet realised as they should do the enormous importance of buying freehold, not to let the opportunity slip through their fingers. Read the announcement of the Great Western Land Company on another page. It is clear and unmistakeable. The advantages of buying freehold are manifest, but if there is anything more the reader would wish to know, let him call at the offices of the Great Western Land Company, either at their London address, or at the Estate Office at Elthorne Heights.

"JOHN BULL'S" MONTHLY CALENDAR.

APRIL.

1. S.—All Fools' Day.—Appropriate celebration by Suffragettes postponed until to-morrow, Q.V.
2. *S.*—5th Sunday in Lent. *Census Day.* Suffragettes walk about all night to evade the Census.
3. M.—*St. Richard's Day*, so-called in honour of Viscount Haldane. Another recruit joins the Territorials. Great rejoicings at the War Office. Suffragettes, tired and footsore, go to bed when it is time to get up, wondering why they were such fools.
4. Tu.—*Mrs. Bull* published. Epidemic of indigestion breaks out through the consumption of Standard bread.
5. W.—Dividends due, and, in some cases, forthcoming.
6. Th.—John Bull published. Many intended emigrants to Canada reconsider their decision.
7. F.—Old Lady Day.—Mr. W. T. Stead, and other old ladies, dose themselves with the Elixir of Life.
8. S.—Oxford Lent Term ends. Oxford tradesmen begin to cast up their books—and their hands and eyes.
9. *S.*—Palm Sunday. Undergraduates return home with itching palms.
10. M.—National Gallery opened 1838. Lord Lansdowne presents "The Mill" to the nation as a free gift (What?—Ed.). The ceremony of unveiling the picture performed by Lord Northcliffe, who improves the occasion with a lecture on Standard bread.
11. Tu.—*Mrs. Bull* published. A *bran*-new book by Miss Marie Corelli, entitled "The Mighty Germ; or, The Sorrows of Semolina." First edition of five million copies exhausted in five minutes.
12. W.—Hilary Law Sittings end. Hilarious lawyers reckon up their fees.
13. Th.—John Bull published. Canadian emigration officials begin to ask one another "What's to be done?" House of Commons adjourns for Easter recess. Party Hacks turned out to grass.
14. F.—*Good Friday.* Strange rumours concerning Mr. Bunn.
15. S.—Hall Caine, not to be outdone by Marie Corelli, commences a new novel, to be called "The White Profit; or, Bone in the Bread."
16. *S.*—Easter Day.
17. *Easter Monday.* Bank Holiday. 'Arry 'Awkins' donah causes a sensation on Hampstead Heath by appearing in a Harem skirt. Scandalized residents of the Hampstead Garden Suburb decide to petition for the closing of Hampstead Heath on Bank Holidays.
18. Tu.—*Mrs. Bull* published. Mrs. Grundy has serious thoughts of emigrating to Ireland.
19. W.—*Primrose Day.* F. E. Smith and other students of the Beaconsfield manner lay wreaths on the dead statesman's tomb.
20. Th.—John Bull published. Certain country magistrates try unsuccessfully to look as if they had not read the Open Letter addressed to them.
21. F.—Mrs. Horne secures vast concessions of the Moon's surface, and invites her friends to subscribe the working capital.
22. S.—Lady Blount refuses to be "touched."
23. *S.*—Low Sunday.
24. M.—St. George's Day. (Substituted for 23rd for convenience of celebration, by special permission of Mr. Lloyd George.)
25. Tu.—*Mrs. Bull* published. Easter Law Sittings begin. Mr. Justice Darling having learned a new joke, an interesting session may be expected.
26. W.—Certain newspapers wake up to the fact that "The John Bull League is Marching On." Copies of the new Song in great demand.
27. Th.—John Bull published. Canadian emigration officials decide that "something *must* be done."
28. F.—Unique edition of *Daily Mail* expected to be issued, containing *no reference to Standard bread!!* Circulation immense.
29. S.—G. K. Chesterton has his hair cut, the weather growing warmer.
30. *S.*—G. K. Chesterton catches a severe cold.

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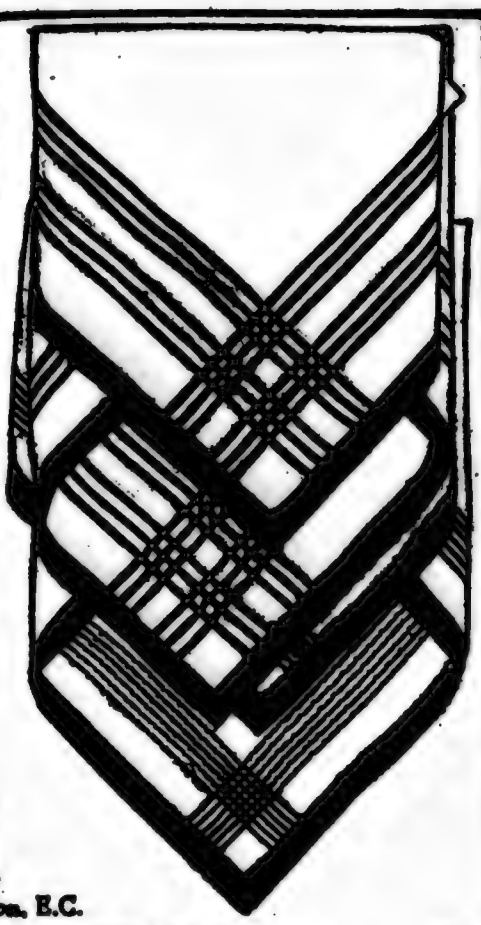
See this Week's "MRS. BULL."

"The handkerchief with the unqualified Colour Guarantee:—
"Six free if one fades in washing."

"Pyramids" are soft and fine in texture, pleasant to use—and unusually durable.

Attractive and exclusive border Colourings: also in All-White.

9d. each
six for
4/3



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Sample "Pyramid" 9d. post free. 57

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Summit 45
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The LOCK TOP does it!

Sample collar with booklet post free 6½d.
'Summit' Collars are made in Ireland.

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Quarter sizes—14 to 18 ins.

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Made with drop frame and finished as road-racer without extra charge.

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Harrods
Latest Sporting Jacket
The "CROWBORO."
The last word in Golf Coats.

Designed at back with pleats which are fulled on to the yoke, thus affording freedom with every movement of the body. Made in the new shades of Green, Drab, and Fawn Twill Yeltra weatherproofed cloths, which are rain-resisting yet aerated. Also in Irish Tweeds and Scotch Homespuns.

Ready to wear in all sizes and Fittings.

JACKET ONLY
25/-
(unlined.)

TROUSERS TO MATCH, which are only made in Irish Tweeds and Scotch Homespuns 12/6

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The John Bull League.

BRANCH REPORTS.

Manchester.—The last of a series of meetings arranged by this branch was held on Wednesday, March 22nd, in the Public Hall, Chorlton-cum-Hardy. In the temporary absence of Councillor Ross Clyne, the chair was taken by Mr. J. Robinson, the Vice-Chairman of the branch, who, in an effective speech, dealt with the necessity of such a League to deal with pressing local matters, and to independently criticise the administration of affairs. Later in the evening the Local Chairman, Councillor Ross Clyne, who had been detained, arrived, and in a vigorous speech dealt with the various subjects under discussion.

Dundee.—This branch will hold another smoking concert on Wednesday next, April 5th, at the City Hotel, Tally Street, at 8 p.m., when Councillor R. M. Noble will preside. A first-class programme has been provided, and it is hoped that members and their friends will be present in force.

Liverpool.—A highly successful smoking concert was held by this branch on Wednesday, March 22nd, at the Bear's Paw Restaurant, when Mr. John Jones presided. A most enjoyable evening was spent, the entertainment being contributed to by Miss Annie Hughes, a very fine contralto; Miss Sarah Chalmers, the well-known elocutionist; Mr. Bert Rose, who was extremely funny; Mr. T. H. Green's Bohemian Quartette, Mr. Eric Merry, Mr. Fred Rowlands, and Mr. Geo. Williams. Miss Edith Merry proved an able accompanist, and in addition gave a charming song. The Local Secretary, Mr. G. S. Haines, delivered a short address on the objects of the League, and propounded a scheme for a canvass of the Bootle constituency in view of the bye-election. The whist drive to-morrow (Friday) night promises to be an equally gratifying success.

Plymouth.—A grand concert was held at the "Welcome" Hall, Devonport, on Wednesday, March 22nd. An excellent programme was arranged, which was greatly appreciated by the large audience present. Mr. J. H. Lucas, who rendered valuable assistance as accompanist, opened the proceedings with a pianoforte selection. Vocal contributions by Miss R. Matthews, Miss Voysey, and Mr. Geo. Harvey were much enjoyed. The League song was rendered by Mr. Frank Smith in his usual vigorous style. Mr. Tom Dunstan was remarkably droll in a comic song. Messrs. G. Harvey and F. Smith gave the old favourite duet, "Tenor and Baritone." A humorous selection by the "Matchless" comedians, Messrs. Bryant and May, caused roars of laughter. Violin solos, "Poet and Peasant" and "Souvenir," were admirably executed by Mr. Thullier. A mandoline solo by Miss Sceer was much enjoyed, and Mr. Hazell concluded the programme with a pianoforte selection. Special mention must be made of Master E. Hicks, the wonderful boy soprano. His song, "Flight of Ages," was magnificently rendered. During the evening short addresses were given by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The forthcoming visit of the President was referred to by the Secretary, who advised the members to arrive early on April 7th at the Guildhall. A limited number of tickets can be obtained by post from the Local Secretary, Mr. Hutchings, 20, Albert Road, Plymouth, but all applications must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

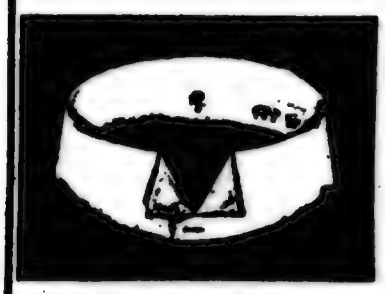
West Hartlepool and Middlesbrough.—The respective Town Halls were crowded on Thursday and Friday last, when ex-Lieut. Sutor delivered an address on Army Administration. Councillor Hussey, the Chairman of the West Hartlepool branch, presided, and the meetings were in every way a great success. The Local Secretary for West Hartlepool, Mr. H. Headlam, worked indefatigably to this end, and received able assistance from Mr. J. A. Ross, who is temporarily acting as Local Secretary for Middlesbrough. The West Hartlepool audience keenly appreciated the excellent concert which had been provided, and which preceded Mr. Sutor's address. At Middlesbrough, the borough organist, Mr. Felix Cobbett, gave a delightful organ recital from the time the doors opened until Mr. Sutor rose to speak.

Leicester.—To-morrow will be a great day in the history of the branch, and the President is assured of an enormous reception. As soon as the doors are opened, Mr. Johnson Lowe will commence his organ recital, and the Local Chairman, Mr. McAllister Hewlings, will take the chair punctually at 7.45. Mr. Ernest Pace, of the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company, will sing the League song.

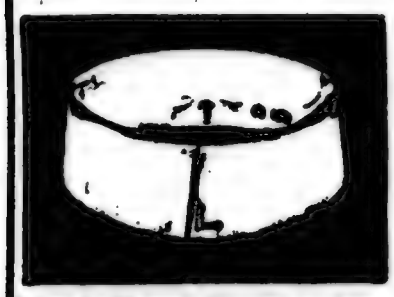
Birmingham.—To-night (Thursday) a meeting is being held at the Yate Street Lecture Hall, Aston Cross, in support of the petition which is being organised by the branch for the extension of the hours during which workmen's cars are run. Similar meetings also take place on Monday next at the Highfield Road Council Schools, Saltley, at 8.30, and on Tuesday next at the Star Hotel, Birchfield Road, Handsworth, at 8 p.m. All members and their friends are cordially invited to be present, and any offers of assistance in connection with the petition will be gladly welcomed.

CASTLE Collars

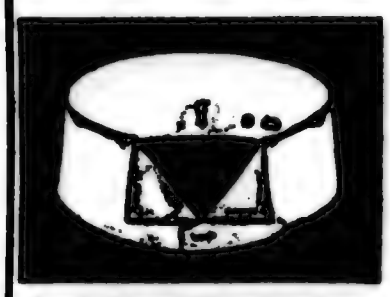
founded on good materials.



Ivy.—2¼ inch deep. (Post 3d. extra.) Per doz. 4/11



M.—2, 2¼ and 2½ inches deep. (Post 3d. extra.) Per doz. 4/11



B.—2, 2¼ and 2½ inches deep. (Post 3d. extra.) Per doz. 4/11

are faced with our pure Irish Linen, which retains its snowy *linen* whiteness after repeated washings. The shapes are good without being extreme,

—AND the price even lower than is often charged for collars much inferior.

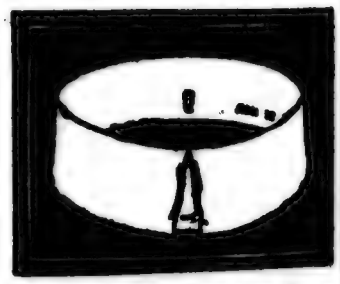
Dress Shirts, "Matchless" quality, 5/11 each; with pleated fronts, 6/6 each.
Shirts refitted, 14/- per half-dozen.
Zephyr or Oxford Shirts, best quality made to order, 6/3 each.
Pyjama Suits, Ceylon Flannel, summer weight, 7/11 suit
Linen Mesh Underwear (non-irritating), Vests, 5/6, Pants 6/6.

Illustrated Lists post free.

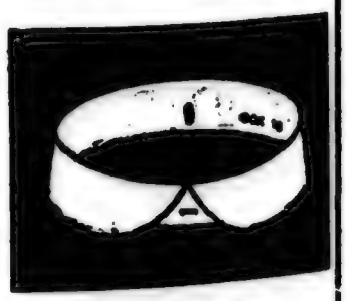
ROBINSON & CLEAVER, Ltd.,

44, E, Donegall Place,

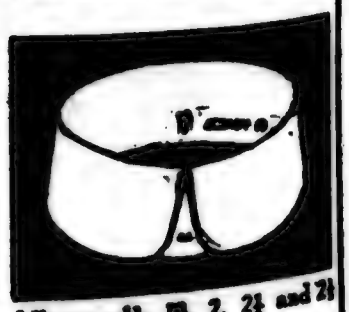
London. BELFAST. Liverpool.



Ash—2 and 2¼ inches deep. (Post 3d. extra.) Per doz. 5/11



Box.—2 inch deep. (Post 3d. extra.) Per doz. 5/11



Albany—1½, 1¾, 2, 2¼ and 2½ inches deep. (Post 3d. extra.) Per doz. 5/11

What Do You Intend To Do About Your Home?

If you have decided to furnish a home this year, or to replace old and worn out furniture, this article will tell you how to save money and get double beauty of the home.

FIGURES AND FACTS IN FURNISHING.

"What do you intend to do about your home?" This question is not addressed solely to those who are plunging into the matrimonial seas, but also to those who at this season of the year intend to replace furniture that has long been worn and old with articles that will once more make the home bright and cheerful.

"But," comes the answer, "furniture costs money, and current expenses will not permit of heavy outlay."

Well, why not furnish or refurnish out of income? There is no need to fear that exorbitant prices will be charged for goods, and there is no need to fear that payments will be so heavy as to cripple one's resources for years to come.

Now that London's leading cash furniture houses in the West End have come forward with a reasonable system whereby their patrons may furnish out of income at practically cash prices, the usual objections to this system are cleared away. Only a cash house could have invented such a simple system as is here outlined, and which enables young married couples or bachelors, no matter where they may live, in London or in the provinces, at home or abroad, to secure real furniture of solid value, beautiful in design, serviceable and effective in ornament, and pay for the same over a period.

Let us first say that it is the famous house of Wolfe and Hollander whose system is here outlined. This firm, whose palatial premises are situate at 252-256, Tottenham Court Road, London, W.C., are prepared to supply clerk, accountant, professional man—in fact, any person — with high-class furniture on these lines.

You, if desiring to furnish home, flat, country cottage or mansion, are desired to call at the Wolfe and Hollander show-rooms, and there select whatever furniture you desire at cash prices, all of which are clearly marked. You make your selections, and your list (with the aid of a courteous assistant or not as desired), and should it come to, say, £50, and you desire to extend payments over a period, you simply add 5 per cent. to your list and, arranging a first payment of 2s. in the £1, arrange subsequent repayments to suit your own convenience.

If your selections at cash figures should reach £50, your actual cost is £52 10s., your first payment £5 5s., and the goods are at once sent you to any part of the United Kingdom carriage paid.

It is not necessary for you even to call at Wolfe and Hollander's premises, though they prefer you so to do in order that you may examine the immense stock in the hundreds of square feet of show-rooms. You may if unable to call, write giving your name and address, when they will at once forward you post paid their handsome furniture album, which contains hundreds of illustrations of all that is best in furniture. Each article illustrated is priced, so that in a few moments and with little trouble you can work out the cost of any changes you desire to make.

This book is, indeed, a most interesting volume, and should at once be written for by all desiring to purchase furniture. It clearly sets a numbers of excellent bargains and also gives many valuable hints to those who desire to furnish their homes in an "out-of-the-ordinary" style. Until you have carefully read through this book you cannot appreciate how simple it is to furnish a really comfortable home out of income. Whatever your desires may be this book will show you how to have them fulfilled. If at any time you are passing the Wolfe and Hollander premises you should call in for a copy of this book; if you cannot call you should certainly make a point to send for a copy of the same.

No desire is too large or too small for Messrs. Wolfe and Hollander to satisfy, and we suggest that you should call at their extensive show-rooms or send for their new illustrated furniture book (sent you gratis and post paid) so that you may judge the actual value of the goods. We may mention that, should you not reside in London, the firm have special representatives in all the chief provincial centres, who will be pleased to call on you to attend to your individual requirements.

To set out clearly the system of payment so that there may be no doubt on the matter, we give the following facts:—

If your purchases amount to £100 cash and you decide to defer payment over a period, your total cost is £105, your first payment £10 10s. If your purchases are £50 your total cost is £52 10s., your first payment £5 5s. If your purchases are £20 your total cost is £21, first payment £2 2s.

This, in a few sentences, is the Wolfe and Hollander system that allows you to furnish out of income—at once—a cosy flat or larger house.

You are invited to call or send for the book addressing, your application to Messrs. Wolfe and Hollander, 252-256, Tottenham Court Road, London, W.C.

"THE BRITISH MERCHANT SERVICE."

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SUBJECT.

In our issue of February 11th we published an article by Captain Gay on the British Merchant Service and the alarming decline of British sailors. It may be remembered that Captain Gay directed attention to the rapid increase of Asiatics and other foreigners in the Merchant Marine, and asked what the public had to say to it. The subjoined letter is a reply :—

> In your paper Captain Gay says :—" Britons are denied a fair share of their rightful heritage, viz., employment in the ships of our Mercantile Marine." He would have us believe it is our "rightful heritage" to sail " before the mast," or stoke the fires of some old dinted-dented " tramp " steamer. Well, perhaps it is, but the present day Britisher looks on these positions in a ship as being beneath his nationality, and rightly so, for the simple reason that Asiatics will work for as low as £1 a month, and shipowners give them the preference. If JOHN BULL would kindly favour its readers with a description of present day conditions " before the mast," or a day in the life of a ship's-stoker, I am inclined to think that most folks would begin to wonder what in all the world induces men, and British men at that, to live their lives under such conditions. It is all very well to cry about a dearth of Britons in the " rank and file," but any man who has served " before the mast " will tell you, and truthfully too, that it's a dog's life. The food is poor, the hardships are terrible, and the treatment, even at the hands of British officers, is often brutal. Of course, the usual run of forecastle hand is a pretty tough customer, and perhaps an extra kick or two doesn't affect him much. There is no getting away from the fact that until things are made sweeter in our Mercantile Marine, British born men will seek employment where life is, at least, worth living. Even apprentice boys have not altogether a happy time of it, especially in sailing ships. I take it that every Briton understands that sea life is not all plain sailing, yet I can't see that young lads will be better officers if they are treated like galley slaves. I can give you facts about the daily duties and treatment of apprentice boys that would make the Briton in you cry out for the blood of some of the men unworthy to bear the name.

MR. D. M. GANT'S new premises, 41, New Bond Street, are quite the last word in architecture and appointment. Room is afforded for some score of clerks, whilst all the latest filing and time-saving devices are installed. Mr. Gant's many clients will be better and more expeditiously served in future than even in the past.

What is Your Number?

Our Weekly Ballot for 50 Helpers at Two Guineas Apiece.

Every copy of JOHN BULL bears upon its cover a distinctive number, and every week FIFTY of such numbers will be drawn and published.

To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL of specified date, bearing any of such numbers, we will, upon production within seven days of publication (a reasonable extension will be allowed to foreign and Colonial claimants) of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify the date and number, pay the sum of TWO GUINEAS in return for his using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation. Before the money is paid we require a full report of all work done.

The following claims have been received for our issue of February 18th :—

THOMAS SNOWBALL, 42, Bydal Street, West Hartlepool. No. 115,237. February 18th.

S. G. WRIGHT, 44, Friar Street, Hereford. No. 402,132. February 18th.

GEORGE BROOKMAN, Craig y Nos Castle, Penycae S.O., Breconshire. No. 10,308. February 18th.

A. G. PILKINGTON, Sunnyside, Broadhembury, Honiton, Devon. No. 424,912. February 18th.

LEWIS EVANS, Llys Carca, Brynamman, Carmarthen. No. 441,295. February 18th.

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of March 4th :—

14047	128335	209045	304242	423101
16128	134649	226103	319859	424245
22915	153326	237825	331462	429312
24973	163813	239242	347275	519127
33943	167942	255773	359469	539741
51123	188555	277504	361481	546540
57389	191149	278048	370324	598418
63976	196423	284231	379823	619126
87469	206128	293125	391258	643231
120121	208339	299757	420142	661759

—Issued November [illegible] in Dominion, not [illegible] [illegible], or [illegible], Bermuda.

The Fifty Numbers in Europe by post Week ending Saturday [illegible] [illegible] Saturday Afternoon [illegible] (Foreign and Colonial [illegible]).

A Tobacco Discovery

HILL'S

Nyasa

Smoking Mixture

Sweet, Cool, and Free Burning

5d. per oz. Cartridges 5½d.

NYASA Cigarettes, 3d. for 10.

Sole Makers, R. & J. HILL, Ltd., 175c, Shoreditch, London, E.

Rudge-Whitworth

Britain's Best Bicycle

EVERYBODY WANTS

the Cyclist's Encyclopædia for 1911, with its large folded chart of interchangeable parts.

A perfect guide to the selection of the perfect bicycle, as ridden by H.M. King George and H.R.H. The Prince of Wales.

This beautifully illustrated book is sent post free on receipt of a post card to

Rudge-Whitworth, Ltd. (Dept. 370), Coventry.

London Depots:—
229 Tottenham Court Road, W.
25 Holborn Viaduct, E.C.

Man after man is succeeding through I.C.S. training.

In all branches of commerce, industry and science: in factory, workshop, and office; wherever good wages are paid for technical work, control and direction—there the I.C.S. man succeeds.

"Through your coaching and undying attention I have gained a first-class situation with a first-class firm—the Sunbeam Motor Works, Wolverhampton."—B. W. BAYLEY, Walsall.

By I.C.S. training any man can acquire profitable, success-making knowledge; can obtain a well-salaried post. Yet I.C.S. training is easy to understand; easy to obtain financially and causes no loss of work. No classes, no book purchases, no fixed hours, no restrictions—but sure, successful results. Actual assistance to better positions.

The way to make a free start on the success path is to send the coupon to-day.

SUCCESS COUPON

International Correspondence Schools, Ltd.

Dept. 429K International Bldgs. Kingsway, London, W.C.

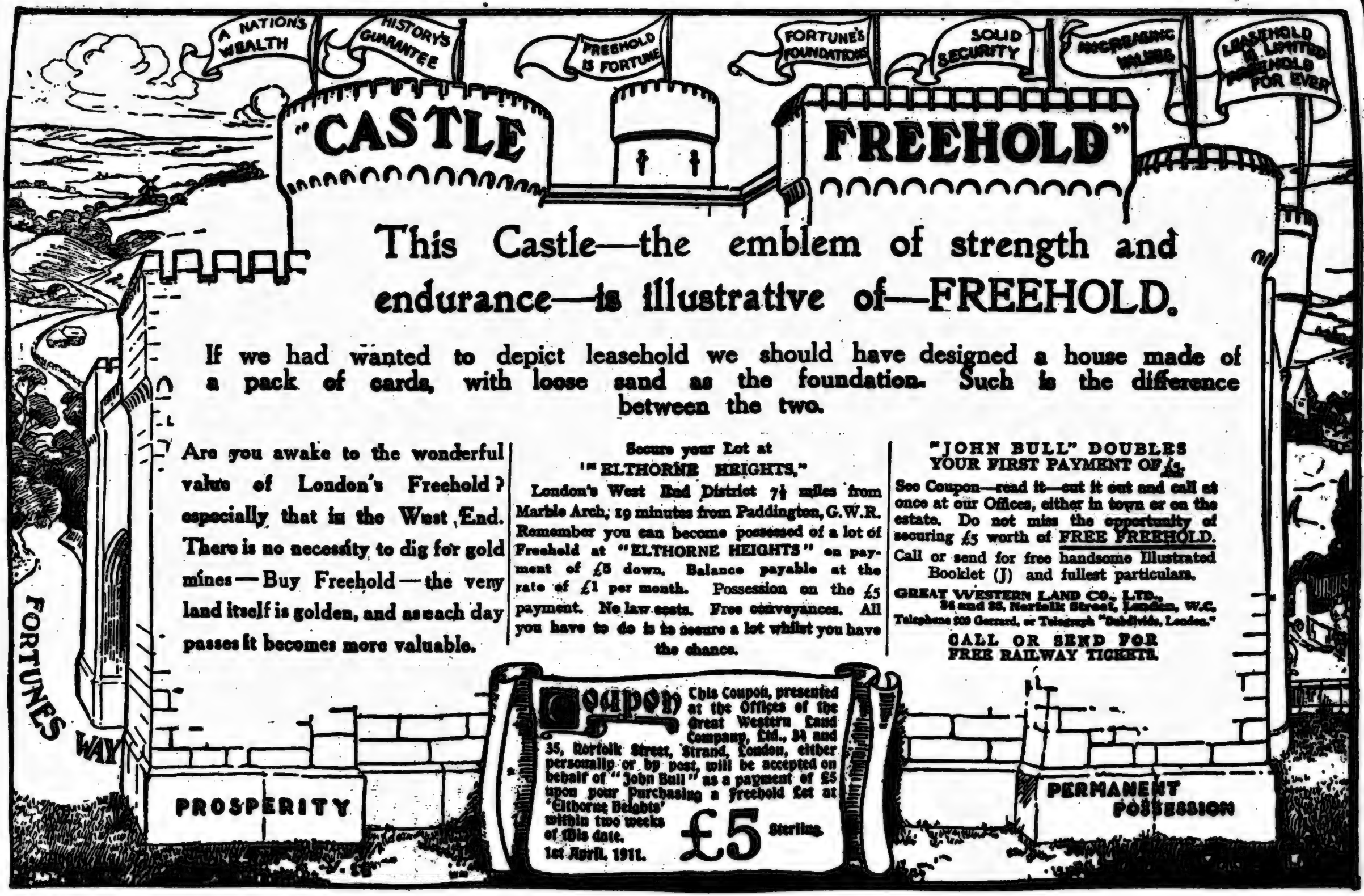
Please explain, without any obligation on my part, how I can qualify for a larger salary in the occupation before which I have marked X (or in the one stated here .....)

—Engineering (state which)—Architecture
—Analytical Chemistry —Civil Service
—Modern Languages —Book-keeping
—Motor and Aviation—Business Training

Over 150 other courses.

Name .....

Address .....



This Castle—the emblem of strength and endurance—is illustrative of—FREEHOLD.

If we had wanted to depict leasehold we should have designed a house made of a pack of cards, with loose sand as the foundation. Such is the difference between the two.

Are you awake to the wonderful value of London's Freehold? especially that in the West End. There is no necessity to dig for gold mines—Buy Freehold—the very land itself is golden, and as each day passes it becomes more valuable.

Secure your Lot at "ELTHORNE HEIGHTS,"

London's West End District 7½ miles from Marble Arch, 19 minutes from Paddington, G.W.R. Remember you can become possessed of a lot of Freehold at "ELTHORNE HEIGHTS" on payment of £5 down. Balance payable at the rate of £1 per month. Possession on the £5 payment. No law costs. Free conveyances. All you have to do is to secure a lot whilst you have the chance.

"JOHN BULL" DOUBLES YOUR FIRST PAYMENT OF £5.

See Coupon—read it—cut it out and call at once at our Offices, either in town or on the estate. Do not miss the opportunity of securing £5 worth of FREE FREEHOLD.

Call or send for free handsome Illustrated Booklet (J) and fullest particulars.

GREAT WESTERN LAND CO., LTD.,
34 and 35, Norfolk Street, London, W.C.
Telephone 939 Gerrard, or Telegraph "Subdivide, London."

CALL OR SEND FOR FREE RAILWAY TICKETS.

Coupon

This Coupon, presented at the Offices of the Great Western Land Company, Ltd., 34 and 35, Norfolk Street, Strand, London, either personally or by post, will be accepted on behalf of "John Bull" as a payment of £5 upon your purchasing a freehold lot at 'Elthorne Heights' within two weeks of this date.

1st April, 1911.

£5 Sterling.

BULL'S EYES.

Notes of Interrogation:—
Is "A Bear in a China shop" to be the latest rendering?
Is "Money talks" Lloyd George's motto?
Will the All-British Shopping Week prove a sell?
Aren't our miners often enough in hot water as it is?
Why have Singers' employées got the needle?
Won't some of us make "poor figure" on the Census forms?
Isn't "shampaign" too often the way to spell it?
Won't "Pluvius" insurances make holidays a gamble instead of gambol?
Why do the students at Guy's advertise their hospital so much?
Isn't "promotion from the ranks" the Army "carrot"?

"War at its best is a hellish art," says Mr. Ernest Hutchings. We have heard men say that, on active service, they had to "work like the devil."

A man was found intoxicated at Kingston with his sleeves rolled up, fighting a poster. Giving Bill a pasting.

An Englishman at Calcutta caught a bomb hurled at him. Now the thrower will catch it.

Is the brown standard beginning to flag?

Black Plum recently won a race. We hope many picked it.

A Tottenham schoolgirl stole money in order to go to a music hall. She had a bad turn.

"I can see lungs as clearly as I can see my hand," said a witness at a recent inquest. But many people can see through others.

Sir John Baddeley: "The whole question of the City arms is in a chaotic state." Then why not take them in hand?

Battleships appear on the new German banknotes. Dreadnoughts and welcome noughts.

Judge Willis: "A penny biscuit made my lunch when I was a student." And now he takes the cake.

All clocks in Paris have been put back nine minutes. Who said the City was fast?

The milkmen's strike in Paris is an udder nuisance.

A detective who went to a house in Acton to arrest a man, heard a phonograph playing "I don't suppose I shall do it again for months and months and months." Its owner won't.

We read of an electric fire escape. Those in peril, we presume, will now be rescued in a flash.

A new tobacco is being made from flowers. Many will prefer the weed.

"Rules for safe flying," says a headline. Only one is needed—"Don't go."

A matinée in aid of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Help Society is to be given at the Playhouse. We hope it will keep many from the workhouse.

Five pounds was assessed as the value of a donkey's foot in a recent action. Poor 'oof!

"The House of Commons is a supremely good jury," according to Mr. Haldane. Is that why they have sent him to the Lords?

It is said that to call a Frenchman a saucepan is to insult him. It makes him boil over.

"Inconstant George," has now been played over 200 times. They must knock the "in" out soon.

They now have a woman M.P. in the Norwegian Parliament. She will have no difficulty in catching the Speaker's eye.

"Beer as a Food," we read. The chief objection to it is that the more you consume, the more happy tight you get.

"The man of over seven feet is a diseased product," says Professor Arthur Keith. A species of tuber-colossus, we imagine.

Mr. Peeper, which won the Brocklesby Stakes at Lincoln, seems to have had a good look in.

"The public enjoys being scared," Dr. Hadwen tells us. No wonder certain daily papers sell.

A goose is reported to have laid an egg measuring a foot and a quarter in circumference. An Easter offering.

"You cannot solve all your problems by building churches," says the Rev. Silvester Horne. True; you only raise new ones.

"Tariff Reform Means Business," we read. About time too.

Trouser skirts are to be seen at Drury Lane. "The Shins of Society"?

Operation at sea, we read. We hope the sea wasn't choppy.

"The actor in China is considered on a par with the barber," says a contemporary. Cutting.

It is suggested that Mr. Winston Churchill will be compelled to grow a moustache as Yeomanry major. His opponents consider that he has airs enough.

100,000 FREE ILLUSTRATED GUIDES TO THE NEW "REGO" CORONATION FASHIONS FOR MEN.

—:o:—

14 Life-like Photographic Plates showing what Smart Londoners will be Wearing this Season.

—:o:—

21 LONDON CENTRES OF DISTRIBUTION WHERE GIFT-COPIES MAY BE OBTAINED AND FREE PATTERNS OF CLOTHS.

—:o:—

100,000 magnificent books on the new "Coronation" Fashions in men's wear are to be given away free to readers of John Bull.

All readers of this journal like to dress as English gentlemen—and this offer to-day enables you to dress in the latest and most stylish West End cut clothes at half the usual cost.

This is the new illustrated guide to the Coronation fashions in men's tailoring. It is given FREE *to readers of* John Bull. *It tells you how to dress in West End cut clothes at half the usual cost, and enables you to get two suits made to measure for the price of one. Call or write for your free copy of this magnificent men's magazine to-day. The addresses where you can get it are given below.*

Do not think of ordering your new suit before securing a free copy of this splendid magazine "Fashions for Men."

There are a large number of important changes in men's tailoring this year—a far greater number than usual—and you will not wish this season of the Coronation of our Gracious Sovereign to appear in clothes of last year's cut and style.

"Fashions for Men" enables you to avoid this. This book—which is yours for the asking—is a complete guide to the new season's tailoring styles. The most important of this year's tailoring alterations are illustrated in detail in 14 life-like photographic plates. These magnificent plates show you exactly what the best men will be wearing this season.

"Fashions for Men" tells you just what coats, overcoats, waistcoats, trousers and breeches will be most fashionable this year. More, it shows how you can dress in clothes bearing the unmistakeable hall-mark of the High-Class West End tailor, at Half the Usual Cost. It enables you to get two new suits or overcoats for the price of one.

The following is an abbreviated list of the contents of the new Coronation issue of "Fashions for Men":—

Fashion Changes in 1911.
Two Suits for the Price of One.
The "Rego" Hyde Park 3-button Lounge.
The "Rego Westminster" 4-button Lounge.
Why Men Need to be Well-dressed.
The "Rego Washington" Lounge (cut on American lines).
The "Rego Balmoral" Suit for the Country.
Fancy Waistcoats.
The "Rego Brighton" 2-button Reefer.
The "Rego Burlington" 4-button Reefer.
How to Fold Coats, Waistcoats and Trousers.
The Growing Popularity of Breeches.
The "Rego Henley" Flannel Suit.
The "Rego Savoy" Frock Coat.
The "Rego Piccadilly" Morning Suit.
"Rego" Facts and Figures.
The "Rego Knightsbridge" Overcoat.
The "Rego Wimbledon" Mackintosh.
The "Regoette" Raincoat.
A £1,000 Challenge to the World.

The 100,000 copies of "Fashions for Men" are being distributed from the 20 London Fashion Centres given below.

Call to-day at the one which is nearest your home or your place of business and secure a copy of this superb guide to the Season's Styles in West End Tailoring.

It will be given you Free. And as it shows you how to obtain two suits (made to measure) for the price of one, or one suit for half the usual cost, it will actually save you money.

At each of the "Rego" Centres below you can inspect a unique selection of patterns of materials for your new suit.

A selection of these patterns together with a copy of "Fashions for Men" will be sent gratis and post free to everyone who writes for them to G. W. Rosenberg (The "Rego" Clothiers, Ltd.), Dept. M., 122, Cheapside, London, E.C.

Call (or write) for Free Patterns of Material and gratis copy of the new "Fashions for Men" this week—before the 100,000 magazines are all distributed and the pick of the patterns pre-selected. The addresses are as follows:—

122, CHEAPSIDE, E.C. (the Centre for Well-dressing City Men).
LONDON, E.C.: 19 and 20, Aldgate.
LONDON, N.: 691, Holloway Road.
LONDON, N.: 265, Pentonville Road.
KING'S CROSS: 40, Caledonian Road.
BRIXTON, S.W.: 18, Atlantic Road.
HAMMERSMITH, W.: 109, King St.
PUTNEY, S.W.: 31, High Street.
RICHMOND, S.W.: 40, George St.
PECKHAM, S.E.: 100, Rye Lane.
LONDON, W.C.: 280, High Holborn.
LONDON, W.: 288, Edgware Road.
FINSBURY PARK, N.: 359, Seven Sisters' Road.
CAMDEN TOWN, N.W.: 183, High St.
DEPTFORD, S.E.: 3, Broadway.
WALHAM GREEN, S.W.: 14, The Broadway.
BALHAM, S.W.: 103, High Road.
KINGSTON: 24, Clarence Street.
ILFORD: 58, Broadway.
CLAPHAM JUNCTION: 27, St. John's Road, S.W.

G. W. ROSENBERG & SONS.

Choose any colour bread you please—

BUT don't forget that there is more nourishment in—

Quaker Oats

than in any other food at any price

"Oats . . . the most nutritious of all cereals. They are rich in nitrogenous matter and mineral substances, and are peculiarly rich in fat . . . Further, of the total nitrogenous matter, 94 per cent. is in the form of proteid, and therefore available for tissue-building."

Dr. Robert Hutchison in his standard work, "Food and Dietetics."

Oats are more nourishing than wheat, no matter in what form wheat is eaten.

Oat-Food is proved by scientific analysis to contain the following elements in higher proportion than any other food—price for price:—proteid—the body-building element; organic phosphorus—the brain-builder; carbohydrates—energy-givers; mineral salts—the bone-makers; lecithin—the nerve-nourisher.

All the world knows that Oat-Food is supplied in its most perfect form in Quaker Oats, with its thin, easily-cooked, easily-digested flakes.

The supremacy of Oat-Food has been overwhelmingly proved by the recent great investigation of The National Food Enquiry Bureau. By special arrangement a copy of the Bureau's 32-page "Report" will be sent upon request, free of charge. Address, QUAKER OATS, LTD., Dept 277 11, Finsbury Square, London, E.C.

AN ORIGINAL BLEND
of High-class Turkish Tobaccos

(HAND MADE)

MATINEE
CIGARETTES

Packet of 25 (Size 3) 1/6 Also Sizes 1 & 2

Of all High-class Tobacconists

Make the Liver Do Its Duty

Nine times in ten when the liver is right the stomach and bowels are right.

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS gently but firmly compel a lazy liver to do its duty.

Cure Constipation, Indigestion, Sick Headache, and Distress after Eating.

SMALL PILL, SMALL DOSE
SMALL PRICE.

GENUINE must bear signature

Brent Good

How am I to get Fitted?

THIS IS AN EASY MATTER. There are three methods of getting fitted by post. If you know the size you usually wear, all you have to do is to tell us and we will guarantee to fit you. The understanding is: "No fit. No pay." Any size can be supplied and every size is made in four different widths—narrow, medium, wide, and extra wide. (Note.—Size is usually marked on lining of boot, right hand side. Look in your boot and see if it is there.)

EVEN IF YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT SIZE YOU TAKE it is still easy to get fitted by post. There are two other methods which you can adopt.

SEND US AN OLD BOOT THAT FITS YOU. We will Select a new pair that will exactly correspond in size and width, and the old boot shall be returned with the new ones on the same day.

IF YOU CANNOT SPARE AN OLD BOOT there is yet another simple method by which you can get fitted. Place the stockinged foot on a sheet of paper and draw an outline by passing a pencil round. The pencil should be held perfectly upright and kept close to the foot. Send this with your order and by return of post you will receive a pair of boots that will fit you EXACTLY.

HOW TO ORDER. — Fill in the coupon stating style number, size and width required (or as an alternative send an old boot or outline of foot). This is all you have to do. We do the rest and guarantee **Satisfaction or Your Money Back.**

128-Page CATALOGUE FREE on receipt of 2d. (cost of postage only). Saves pounds in your Family Boot Bill.

DESCRIPTIONS.

No. 1617.—BOX CALF BOOT, 8/6. — Splendid Box Calf Uppers, straight golosh, no outside seam, unbreakable jockey back, toe-capped (as illustrated), best linen lined, specially selected, hard-wearing solid leather sole, sewn. Best make and finish throughout.

No. 1717. — GLACE KID BOOT, 8/6.— Exactly same style and quality as above, but slightly lighter in weight.

No. 1417.— BROWN WILLOW CALF, 9/6. — A magnificent boot, rich nut-brown shade and warranted real "Willow" Calf.

POST FREE 8/6

Direct from the Factory to your door.

COUPON. *"John Bull," April 1, 1911.*

To W Barratt & Co. Ltd., Northampton

I herewith deposit 8/6, for which please send me POST FREE one pair of "Footshape" Boots No..... Size..... Width..... It is clearly understood that if I am not perfectly satisfied with the fit I will return the boots and you will return my 8/6 in full immediately.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

Pin this COUPON to your letter.

SIZES: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 (size 12, 1/- extra). Each size is made in four different widths. No. 3 width (for slender feet); No 4 (medium); No. 5 (wide); No 6 (extra wide)

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JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[The Editor *replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.*]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when sending cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag." AND ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPES ARE SENT FOR THE PURPOSE. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The Editor *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be sent in the first instance; if inspection of the originals is required, a request will be forwarded to that effect.*

ANONYMOUS CORRESPONDENCE is increasing steadily. In future, we will disregard any letter which is not duly authenticated with name and address, which may be given in strict confidence.

Bull Pup.—No, thanks; not now. Place it in a position where a motor-bus may run over it.

"Critic" (Falkirk) complains that we do not always publish the results of *our exposures*. In many cases he can see them for himself; in others he must wait and see. As to expanding our "Bull's-eyes," there may be such a thing as too much of a joke.

C. H. (Dorchester) says *catarrh* can be cured by sousing the face and back of neck night and morning with cold water.

"Adansi" (Stepney) asks: "Should a *Prince of Wales* die while his son and brother are alive, who becomes Prince of Wales?" Nobody. The title has to be conferred by the Sovereign.

"Tom" (London, E.).—No need to apologise for writing to us *on the Sabbath*. The better the day, the better the deed.

E. J. M. (Sydenham).—We do not see why our publication of the fact that a certain chimney-sweep is not "by any means" a *teetotaler* would "cause great fun." It has not even made us giggle.

"A Reader" (Holloway) writes: "I think you are a coward for sending *Mrs. Bull* out two days before you come out yourself." But polite people always say "Ladies first!"

E. A. H. (Lee) is very proud of having composed a *poem in four languages*. We rather like this verse:

"The clerk must have paper, and so must his chief,
Denn ohne Papier, wie schreibt man den Brief?
Et puis, n'oubliez pas les billets doux,
Bel passa-tempo di gioventu!"

Himmel—sapristi—corpo di Bacco!

P. McS. (Birkenhead) complains of the arbitrary action of *Customs' officials*, and says they put a premium on smuggling.

"534765" (Birkenhead) complains that *barmen* have to work 110 or 112 hours a week, with practically no time off for regular meals.

E. W. (Hull) complains that many *tobacconists* will not take farthings and consequently exact 4d. a lb. too much for cigarettes.

H. J. H. (Holland Park Gardens) wants to know if the word "visibler" is *good grammar*. Well, we have the authority of "Alice in Wonderland" for "curiouser and curiouser."

"Malone" (Belfast) invites Jim Crow, on the ground that the *whisky* there would give an inspiration to a mummy. But Jim does not desire to give inspirations to his mummy and decides to leave him alone.

"X.Y.Z." (Newcastle-on-Tyne).—For all practical purposes, the Budget of 1909–10 was passed in its entirety.

Mr. Leonard Sterling (Turf Accountant, Bury Street, London) says that several clients have called his attention to the paragraph in last week's "Letter Bag," informing an *anonymous correspondent*—who adopted as a *nom-de-plume* his place of residence "*Stirling*"—that we could not, in the circumstances, publish particulars of his complaint against a Flushing football accountant. We do not see how any reasonable person could connect Mr. Sterling with the matter, but in any event have pleasure in stating that the complaint does not refer to him.

"Haslemere" complains of incivility at the hands—or rather mouth—of a *ticket examiner at Waterloo Station*. He had left his dispatch case, containing private papers, at an adjacent telephone box, and the railway official churlishly refused to assist him in its recovery.

The Rev. J. P. Bacon Phillips (Crowhurst, Sussex), in good-humouredly accepting our facetious comments upon the peculiar series of coincidences showing *the fruitful nature of the Sussex soil*, desires us emphatically to state that the persons who have sent him a cutting from some other journal suggesting his participation in a stag hunt, have done so under a misapprehension. He thinks that it must refer to somebody at Crowhurst, Surrey, as he has "for years denounced hunting of every sort and kind from the pulpit and platform."

(*Continued on page* 534.)

A Word to the Wide-Awake!

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SHEFFIELD.

W. E. B. (Shrewsbury) and Many Others.—The explanation of Jerry M. appearing amongst our Sporting Selections is due to the fact that we unfortunately have to go to press a week before our date of publication, and the horse was scratched during the interval.

J. C. K. (Stevenage).—We are glad to hear that the St. Pancras Baths Committee have decided that *mixed bathing* shall be permitted, "with proper safeguards." Against what?

E. S. N. (Brighton) says the *Cornish* folk are *ne plus ultra*. One and all.

"Trebla" (Stratford) went to *skate in Finsbury Circus* in the evening "when nobody was there," and was disturbed by a policeman, who threw small stones to trip him up. How now, Mr. Churchill?

G. S. R. (Islington).—How on earth can we tell whether the judge was "judging the *Newfoundland dogs* or the friends of the dogs"? We weren't there.

"Medical Man" says that no religious belief teaches that the future existence of a person depends on the body after death, therefore he defends *post mortems* for experimental purposes. The "unchanging East" must have changed since the suppression of the Sepoy mutiny. But why is "Medical Man" ashamed of his name and address?

"Commissioned Officer of His Majesty's Forces."—The fact that *marriages* are habitually described in regimental orders *as casualties* does not make it any the less ridiculous.

W. E. (Acton) says the Post Office are going to needless expense by destroying all the old machinery when taking over the *telephones* in certain places.

J. A. F. (Huddersfield).—What had your friend had to drink when he thought he saw *Jim Crow* hawking cockles on Billy Nuffin's wheelbarrow in Houndsditch? We quite agree with you about *Lord Roberts'* "overweening vanity," but we daren't let Jim loose upon him. The Field-marshal might start a punitive expedition.

F. C. and Co. (Kingsway) say that, after issuing many writs, they have received satisfaction from the *National Society of Chauffeurs*.

R. W. (Forest Gate) wants to know if L.C.C. motormen are being canvassed for the *tram system* in New South Wales.

"A Lover of Fair Play" (Abertillery) says that *explosions in mines* are not caused merely by the ignition of matches, but by the presence of gas, and that employers are culpably indifferent about that.

Clericus.—It will puzzle you to find it. Is your mission so poor that it cannot afford a navvy's wage?

An Anonymous Reader sends us a copy of the *Somerset County Gazette*, containing a report of the *wedding* of the *daughter of the Vicar of Holy Trinity, Ash Priors*. He gleefully remarks in the margin, "A special report from the Vicar himself." What of that? It is certainly well written, and surely, in such circumstances, a little sentiment is excusable.

M. J. (Bridgend) complains of the methods of business of *F. Davis*, the notorious "licensed pawnbroker," 284, Brixton Road, who advertises goods and puts customers to the expense of carriage for new shoddy articles. Surely such people should be debarred from styling themselves pawnbrokers.

T. D. P. (Harringay) has been exhibiting a bill for the *Lyric Theatre* for a long time on the understanding that seats would be given, but is now told curtly that this is impossible, and that, if he feels he cannot wait, he had better take the bill down. He thinks this is rather late in the day, after he has helped to make a success of a play.

E. B. R. (Streatham) accuses the Regent Art Studio, 60, Vaughan Road, Camberwell, of playing the *photo enlargement trick* upon his wife. But W. P. (South London Picture Gallery, 60, Vaughan Road, Camberwell) informs us that some unscrupulous persons are working the *free enlargement swindle* under the title of his business. Why not consult the police?

H. S. (Twickenham) has heard from Madame Tussaud's that they never offered £100 to anyone for spending *a night among the wax-works*. So he wants to do it for nothing. We offer no objection.

C. S. (Portland Place).—If the *Competitors' Aid Association* were really successful, and had a great number of clients, we suppose shares in prizes would be very small. However, that is no concern of ours.

A. O. (Kennington Park).—It is certainly a good idea that members of the John Bull League should make a point of attending *Mormon meetings* and expressing their views.

B. P. J. (Harlesden) is very angry with us for publishing an article called "*Is woman the gentler sex?*" which he describes as "the impertinent vapourings of an anonymous cad." But he might have known that we should be the last people in the world to run down the fair sex.

"Wee Wasp" (Aberdeen) wants to know why *football competitions* are allowed in England and not in Scotland. Because the English are not uncoguid.

F. W. W.—If the *pigeons in Hilldrop Crescent* are a nuisance, why not set the Crippen cat among them?

"Clatter-Duffy" (Manchester) wants to know if the money collected for the *widows and orphans* of the crew of the s.s. *Ellan Vannin* was ever distributed? She was lost near Liverpool about 14 months ago.

"Anxious" (Hampstead) inquires about *Jack Hart*, football accountant, Hampstead.

W. A. H. (Knebworth).—Glad you took our 25 to 1 tip, but don't agree with your suggestion of a Government inquisition every year to check *loafing*. We have to fill up quite enough forms as it is.

R. W. (Canterbury).—Glad to see your *Member* shaping so well.

J. H. G. (Rotherhithe).—We do not think we will publish *Mr. Charles Phillips'* letter to "dear Emily"! It is, however, a splendid specimen of Christian cant.

E. M. J. (Abergavenny) inquires about Mrs. Helen Caldwell's *Institute for Stammerers, Edinburgh*. Tut, tut!

"A Constant Reader of John and Mary" (Wimbledon) has had a *Tryphena Mission* box on his counter for two years, but no one has called for it, and he wants to know what to do with the box and the contents. Will they run to a drink? The so-called "mission" is quite undeserving of support.

J. F. (Sheffield) writes: "I have thought out a new method of *cleaning yards, stables, etc.*, and am at a loss what to do, as I have the misfortune to be blind and poor." Why not consult some great sportsman and mention our name?

K. C. (London, N.) says we "write about *hospitals* as if they were Heaven on earth," whereas "they are dens of cruelty to animals." This is rather hard, as we are always being abused by vivisectors for leaning to the opposite extreme.

Beatie (Bolton).—If you are looking for an easy competition and a profitable one, try "The Missing Link" just started in *Mrs. Bull*.

Perplexed.—If you state what is the omission we might be able to help you.

[We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.]

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It is composed of six chapters. Part I. deals with the relation of health to happiness; gives a description of the famous "Ajax" Dry-Cell Body Batteries; tells of what electricity is doing in the cure of disease, and concludes with a list of those diseases which readily yield to this wonderful, irresistible force.

Part II. treats of Nervous Troubles. An interesting discussion on the nervous system is given. Then follow the various nervous complaints—Neurasthenia, Insomnia, Paralysis, Neuralgia, Locomotor Ataxia, Epilepsy, Chorea (St. Vitus' Dance). It tells how each and every one of these complaints can be cured, and lots of medical evidence is given to support it.

Part III.—This chapter is devoted to the various forms of Rheumatic Troubles. It gives the experiments and opinions of many celebrated physicians in their untiring efforts to find a cure for Rheumatism, Sciatica, Lumbago, Gout, and Backache, and explains how a cure can be gained for each that is certain and lasting.

Part IV.—The Stomach, Liver, and Kidneys are here dealt with. Dyspepsia, Constipation, Diarrhœa, and Dysentery are described in detail. The opinions of such well-known medical men as Drs. Rockwell, Erb, de Watteville, Turner, Seidel, and many others are given. A means of permanent cure which has proved successful in hundreds of cases is also explained.

Part V.—Various complaints, such as those of the Bladder, Deafness, Asthma, Cramps, Eczema, Chilblain, Headache, and Catarrh are described. Detailed experiments are given as to the peculiar and astonishing effect that electricity has on these troubles.

Part VI.—In this chapter only complaints peculiar to women are treated. Female complaints, Anæmia, and Hysteria are exhaustively described. A host of eminent doctors' opinions are quoted. The abuses of electricity and the importance of health are also dealt with, and, lastly, a copy of the Certificate of Merit awarded by *Science Siftings* to the "Ajax" Dry-Cell Batteries, as well as the expert testimony of the well-known scientist, W. Lascelles-Scott, Esq.

The work is not only the most interesting, but the most valuable from a health point of view that has ever been published. The "Ajax" Dry-Cell Body Battery is a scientific appliance that has done more for weak and ailing people than any remedy known. It is a "last resort" treatment in the most obstinate cases. The peculiar construction of the battery, which enables it to generate a strong and continuous current with no charging whatever, makes it a convenient and pleasant treatment. An eminent physician recently said, "No body properly charged with electricity can be weak."

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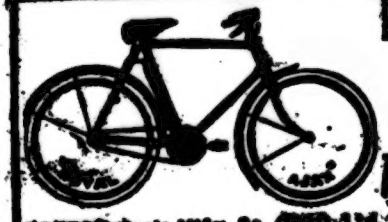

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RACING NOTES.

By W. Lotinga.
("*Larry Lynx*" *of* The People, "*Double U. L.*" *of* Lotinga's Weekly, *and* "*Magpie*" *of* The Globe.)

The Base of Jumping.

The "ring" say that it does not matter if there are a dozen or fifty runners in some jumping races, especially in maiden events—only one or two are backed, and that the result is nearly always in favour of the favourites. After horses have been beaten two or three times, or fall once or twice, they lose their confidence, and are pretty certain to do the same thing again.

The Army Predominates.

From time immemorial the Services have been liberal patrons of the Turf. Without the support of the Army, steeplechasing might never have been created or have flourished. Nowadays, mayhap, our officers do not give quite the same whole-hearted help, or take such general active participation, due to two causes—firstly, that many have not the means, and that leave and facilities are not now so easily obtained, rather the reverse. In comparison to the Army, the Navy has played a very moderate hand in connection with the Sport of Kings, and I can at the moment only recall two present-day owners: Rear-Admiral Sir Hedworth Lambton and Lieut. Oliver Backhouse, both, appropriately enough, claiming sea-green racing jackets.

Prophetic.

For the first few weeks of the season there is nothing like positive public form as evidence of an animal's fitness. It is somewhat easy, therefore, to pick Victory for the Derbyshire Plate to-day (Thursday), and, on his Lincoln form, Syce for the Chaddesden Plate, for the chestnut was unlucky then, and will relish this longer course. Friday at Alexandra Park would only similarly suggest Powhatan's gaining the Middlesex Plate, and on Saturday I like nothing better than Bath for the Alexandra Handicap.

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